

The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1873.

The Week.

THE President has sent a message to Congress, calling for legislation to put the criminal procedure in Utah more completely in the control of the Federal courts and officials, so as to avoid the results of the selection of juries under the laws of the Territorial legislature, which a recent decision of the Supreme Court has declared to be the valid mode. He recommends that the preparation of the jury-lists be placed, if not in the hands of the United States Courts and their officers, at least in the hands of persons entirely independent of "those who are determined not to enforce any acts of Congress obnoxious to them"; and he also calls for some remedy for the interference of the Mormon Probate Courts with the administration of criminal justice by their issue of writs of habeas corpus. There ought not to be any difference of opinion as to the expediency of acting on these recommendations, but they will doubtless be prejudiced by the belief that there exists a desire on the part of large numbers of Christians to get hold of Mormon lands and mines, and that they have succeeded in bringing a strong Methodist influence to bear on the President on the subject of Mormon enormities, and are warmly in favor of the root-and-branch method of dealing with the polygamists, and have done something towards that conversion of the United States Court into a missionary organization of the Mohammedan or Jewish type on which we commented last year. Some of the very best observers of Mormonism are, however, strongly of opinion that the sword of the Lord and of Gideon, and especially the sword of Gideon, had better, just at present, be kept in the sheath; that all the forces of civilization are working against Mormonism much more effectually than legislation could ever do; that the case is a very peculiar one, which requires considerable patience and self-restraint on our part; and that noble a thing as a crusade on behalf of chastity and monogamy might be, crusaders, in our day, are so apt to be lewd rascals that the longer they are kept at home in some dull, honest calling, the better, even if in the meantime the heathen indulge in a little exultation.

The Butler bill regulating the award of the *Alabama* damages has passed the House, but it differs from the Senate bill in remitting the work of distribution to the courts instead of a commission. There will, therefore, be a conference, with what prospect of agreement we do not know. A letter was read in the course of the debate from Mr. Fish to the American Counsel at Geneva, warning them not to pledge the Government to any particular mode or principle of distribution, and this was evidently considered in the House as settling the question of the absolute power of the Government over the fund. In reality, it affects the question in no degree whatever. The relation of the Government to the award is regulated not by what Mr. Fish said to the Counsel, but by the reasons the Counsel gave the Tribunal, in their evidence and pleadings, for asking for the money, and the reasons the Tribunal gave for awarding it. All attempts to govern it by other considerations are simply quibbling of a not very reputable sort. The claims of the insurance companies were submitted to the Tribunal in virtue of those principles of general commercial law which it is now proposed to repudiate, and a new rule of distribution, of which nobody ever heard before, is introduced, which acknowledges the right of insurance companies which have voluntarily undertaken war risks in the regular course of their business, to compensation out of the Government treasury if their ventures have not turned out well. Congress ought now in decency to impose this rule on the courts, and abolish the doctrine of subrogation, and make the companies' claim to salvage depend upon the result of the year's business.

As we go to press, the *Crédit Mobilier* affair is in the hands of no less than three committees. First, the Poland Committee, charged with the duty of investigating the accusations against individual members of the House; second, the Wilson Committee, having in hand the investigation of the entire Pacific Railroad business; and third, the Senate Committee, to whom the cases of Senators Harlan, Patterson, and Wilson have been referred. Harlan's reputation was damaged in this way: from the undisputed testimony of Durant, it appeared that two checks for \$5,000 each, payable to Harlan's order, were sent to him when he was engaged in getting himself elected to the Senate from Iowa, for the good of the cause, or, as Durant says, because he wanted to see good men in the Senate. Harlan has not found himself able to give any definite account of this money (which, it is worth observing, came in reality from the United States, through the hands of Durant acting for the Union Pacific); but he has given a very amusing picture of a Western Senatorial election, in his endeavor to explain why so much money was necessary. According to his account, the interest taken by the people when a Senatorial election comes off in Iowa is so intense that they throng together from all parts of the United States to the State Capitol. They come in such haste that they forget to bring money with them for their current expenses, and, when the contest is over, there are several hundreds of prominent lawyers, judges, generals, railroad men, and citizens of all grades, absolutely unable to get home again, unless somebody pays their hotel, and carriage, and washing bills. The victorious Senator settles these, and any one can see that there is no bribery or corruption about such little offices of Christian kindness as this. In this way, Mr. Harlan spent \$10,000, or, as he thinks, rather more.

Oakes Ames has produced his memorandum-book, and corroborated his statements about the implicated members by the exhibition of the original entries, made at or about the time of the transactions with them. This evidence, which no attempt has been made to impeach, is of a very high order, and makes it pretty clear that Ames's first story was a tissue of prevarications, and that, when he was brought "to bay," his statements were true. Mr. Colfax has made a desperate effort to explain the check payable to "S. C.," dated June 20, 1868, and his deposit of \$1,200, made June 22, 1868; but without much success. He has proved (to give him the full benefit of his own evidence) that he received \$1,200 some time in June, 1868, in two amounts of \$200 from his father-in-law, Mr. Matthews, and \$1,000 from one Nesbitt, of New York, who sent it in a thousand-dollar bill as a contribution to the political expenses of the campaign of that year, imploring Mr. Colfax to say nothing about it. There are no dates or vouchers for this; but the most singular thing of all is that the whole matter should have been entirely forgotten by Mr. Colfax when it was most necessary for him to recollect it, that is to say, when his bank account first came to light, although he now says that the receipt of this money affected his mind at the time as a remarkable and astonishing fact.

Senator Patterson's case is a pretty clear one; he does not deny that his signature to the receipts for *Crédit Mobilier* dividends is genuine, but he says his confidence in Oakes Ames was so entire that he probably signed without reading them, supposing all the time that his money had been invested in Union Pacific securities—a likely story, which has been rendered still more probable by the discovery of Mr. Patterson's certificates of stock endorsed to him by Oakes Ames in the safe of Morton, Bliss & Co. of this city. Mr. Morton has testified that the certificates were left with his firm for safekeeping (apparently in 1871), in an envelope, and put away without his knowing or thinking anything more about it, he having no account with Senator Patterson in *Crédit Mobilier*. He has an impression they were left there by Oakes Ames. Oakes Ames

swears that he did not leave them; but all this is child's play, except so far as it serves to clear Mr. Morton of complicity in these transactions. Mr. Morton had formerly stated that he had no shares in *Crédit Mobilier* for Mr. Patterson; the fact being that he did not at the time know of this envelope in his safe.

Perhaps the most extraordinary, most shameful, and most depressing of all the incidents of the "exposures" of the last three years has been the appearance of a United States judge as a common "striker" and lobbyist, in the person of Mr. C. T. Sherman, the brother of the Senator and of the General of that name, and Judge of the District Court of Northern Ohio. It appears that hearing that the New York Stock Exchange wished to procure the repeal of the tax on borrowed capital, he made an arrangement with one of its principal members, Mr. Lockwood, since dead, to aid in bringing about the repeal; and, after the repeal had been effected, demanded \$10,000 for his services, saying that "he had gone to work, and had an interview with John Sherman, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, with Mr. Garfield, and other prominent members of Congress, and the result was that it became the policy of the Administration to repeal not only the tax in question, but the stamp and other taxes, and that he thought this result was brought about by discussions raised and influences used by him." Being brought before the Committee of Ways and Means, however, he denied point-blank that he had had any interviews with the gentlemen named, or had "raised discussions," or "used influences," or had anything to do with the repeal of the tax, and that he wanted the money for Judge Bartley, his brother-in-law, and Mr. R. C. Parsons, the Marshal of the Supreme Court, to whom he had handed over the job in question, and who did it. It appears plain, therefore, that the Judge has been guilty, on his own statements, either of corruption or of lying and obtaining money under false pretences. If the sense of honor and sense of shame be dead among men in public life, there is nothing for it but to strike terror by some means, and the obvious and imperative course to be pursued with Judge Sherman is to impeach him without delay for one of the two offences; he might even be allowed to elect on which he would go to trial.

One of the most extraordinary of Mr. Boutwell's assertions was one he recently made before the Committee of Ways and Means in Washington, that "our credit is better than that of any other government in the markets generally, better than that of England"; that "the price of consols is not due to the value of English credit, for they do not sell on the Continent at all"; and that "English consols do not sell out of Great Britain." The *London Economist* has taken the matter up, however, and shows that the India Four and Five per cents, and the Canada and New South Wales and South Australia Fives, sell in London at 102, 110, 102, 106, 106, respectively, and the English Three per cents. bring 92, while the American Fives only bring 100. The *Economist* further adds, that Mr. Boutwell's notion that the price of consols is kept up by forced investments of "trust funds" is "a delusion," and that if he meant, as we think he did, that consols do not sell out of Great Britain "because foreigners have some misgivings about the quality of the security itself," it (the *Economist*) cannot but pity the state of mind into which Mr. Boutwell has fallen, and still more deeply pities the country which has such a man for its finance minister! The main reason why consols are not dealt in on the Continent is, that they are not transferable by delivery, a fact of which Mr. Boutwell is probably ignorant, but then why should he have ever burdened himself with the knowledge? He has certainly never found himself at any step of his career hindered by the want of it.

The New York charter has at last been reported to the Legislature, substantially as the Republican Committee drafted it. There is a Mayor and Board of Aldermen, all elected by the city at large, the Board renewable by thirds, which is a great advance on the old system and is a serious blow to "ward politics." The Mayor nominates heads of departments, and the Aldermen confirm if

they please; if they cannot agree, he and they go into "joint convention," in which he has only one vote. The various departments are all independent of each other, though their organization is generally approved of. The elections are to be held in the fall along with the others. In fact the whole instrument is as good as is consistent with the grand plan of giving the Republican party the control of the city offices. A majority of reformers voted for Mr. Havemeyer last fall, in the belief, which was strongly preached by the *Times*, that he was a rare man, of long experience and the highest character, whose name more than covered the weakness of the Republican politicians who adopted him as their candidate. We are now informed by the same authority that he is a very weak sort of body, tells lies, is full of treachery, and is far more anxious about the revival of the Democratic party than about the good of the city. Such is the uncertainty of this life. We also learn from the same source that Mr. Tilden, who was popularly supposed in 1871 to be the principal actor in the reform movement, is also a liar, and very cowardly and tricky, and had nothing or next to nothing to do with the reform movement.

The arguments by which the refusal to the Mayor of the appointing power is defended show that we are still very far from any radical reform. In one breath we are told to "trust the people," that they will set things to rights, but in the next we are warned that if the Mayor be allowed to make the appointments, he will be able to re-elect himself and do various other bad things as much as he pleases; or, in other words, will completely bamboozle "the people" and set them at defiance. Then we are told that the Board of Aldermen must share the appointing power, because the United States Senate shares it with the President, as if the mode of appointing subordinate ministerial officers was something fixed by absolute principle, and did not depend on time and place and circumstances. It may be proper to restrain a king or president by a council chamber, but very ridiculous to shackle a mayor or bank president in the same way. All our efforts are, or ought to be, directed just now to the extirpating of the notion which has worked all our woes that the city is a political community, and obtaining recognition of the fact that it is a commercial corporation. The best model for its government is, therefore, that of a bank or a factory, and not either that of the German Empire or the American Republic or the British Monarchy, or any other great state of ancient or modern times. If the Mayor should, through the appointing power, seat himself so firmly in the executive chair that he could not be got out by "the people" at the end of his term by a regular vote, why, we should appeal to arms. The custom-house tocsin would ring out wild and clear, and we should rally under Murphy and Gardiner and Bliss and Davenport, and overthrow the tyrant in the City Hall, and cut off his wicked old head.

The surveyorship of this port was left vacant by the election of Mr. Cornell to the State Legislature. The case was clearly one for the application of the civil-service rules, so clearly indeed that the friends of the reform felt that it would prove a crucial case, coming as it did after "the suspension of the rules" in the case of the Chicago and Princeton postmasterships, and were greatly troubled when they found the President hesitating about the course he should pursue. Mr. Curtis, we understand, went to Washington, and labored with him successfully to overcome the influence of the "Republican Ring," for such is the name given to the little clique of four men who have succeeded Tweed, Sweeny, Hall, and Connolly in the government of the city and State. The result was that Mr. Benedict, the Deputy Surveyor, was nominated under the rules to the vacant place, and there was considerable rejoicing in the reform camp over this happy result. More than a fortnight ago, however, the members of the Ring who were violently opposed to the rules began to brag openly that they had the President's promise that the name should be withdrawn. It now turns out that they were right; the name has been withdrawn, but the reform is never-

theless to work, for the new nominee is to be selected by examination from the present Custom-house employees.

There is a large body of people, and they are usually present in great force in political conventions and in legislatures, who are never easy unless they are "hailing" somebody or something with "delight" or "joy" or "pride" or "satisfaction." Indeed, some of them pass half their time looking for something to "hail." The Spaniards, who have shown themselves thus far the most ungovernable people in Europe, except the French, and are inferior to the French in other ways, have just set up a republic, owing to their king, poor fellow, having run away in disgust. If they do not succeed any better with a republic than with a monarchy, they have a sorry future before them; but, at all events, their best friends must admit that the experiment is dubious, because nothing is surer than that a people which cannot work one kind of government is apt not to be able to work another. Therefore, we may venture to remind the Massachusetts Legislature, which has a "hailing" resolution under consideration, that the time to congratulate the Spaniards will be five years hence, when they have shown that they can make a republic work by preserving order and paying their debts and making roads.

Prince Bismarck made in the Reichstag, on the 25th, an explanation of the late ministerial crisis, which has been reprinted, as the official version of the transaction, in the *Correspondance de Berlin*, by which the German Government keeps its diplomatic agents informed of what is going on in home politics. He said, in reply to questions, that the reason of his retirement was a great deal more simple than it seemed; that the truth was that the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Chancellorship of the Empire, and the Presidency of the Prussian Council were too much for him; that as years rolled on, and his nervous force declined, he felt that he must cut down his work on one side or the other, and that he found that the Prussian Presidency was what made the heaviest demands on his strength and involved most responsibility; that it was this he could lay aside with the least loss of influence, and influence was a thing he could not surrender; that no differences of opinion in the Ministry had led to his retirement; that in all recent discussions in the Ministry he had always voted with the majority. He discussed in a very interesting way the differences between the English and Prussian Constitution, as regards the composition and responsibility of the Ministry, but pronounced strongly against the applicability of the English theory or practice to Prussian politics, and maintained that responsibility to the King and not to Parliament, and government through the men of his choice, and not through persons thrown to the head of affairs by a parliamentary majority, was the form best suited to the present stage of political development in Germany.

If the Ministry as now constituted perfects those reforms in church and state which the Liberal programme calls for, the result will go far to justify the Prussian system of a collegiate ministry, responsible to a personal sovereign, in preference to a prime minister who is amenable nominally to parliament, but really to a party majority. It is this system which is now on trial—a system which combines all shades of politics in the actual government, gives to minorities their share of influence, and secures to the king his personal co-operative activity in the affairs of state. If it shall bear the test of a change of leadership in face of the country and of Europe, with no perceptible shock to public interests, it may succeed in combining moderation with progress and in making of government, the representative of the whole nation, instead of the tool of a party. This is the ground which Count von Roon himself took in his parrying speech of January 9th in the Chamber of Deputies. He likened the ministry to an orchestra executing a symphony, in which each member played his own part, and the momentary discords only made the final harmony the more enjoyable. Besides, the degree of apparent harmony might depend very much upon the ear or the mood of the

listener. Old parties, he said, were vanishing, issues were changing, and he would promise nothing more than fidelity to the constitution and the king, with constant deference to the wishes of that great party, "the honored people." Though the new President gave no hint of his policy for the future, he demanded that the Government should be sustained by confidence, and not restrained by distrust.

The measures for the control of the Catholic clergy by the state, introduced into the Prussian Parliament, to which we referred last week, though they look toward the cultivation of manliness, independence, and patriotism in the clergy, and the protection of Catholic subjects in their civil rights, are in some points so arbitrary as to raise doubts of their constitutional validity. Accordingly, the commission to which the bill was referred have thought it advisable to propose certain changes in the Constitution, which shall qualify all rights and privileges conceded to the church by an explicit declaration of the paramount authority of the state, and its right to supervise the education and the discipline of the church. These changes must be agreed upon by a majority of both Houses, by two distinct votes of each, with an interval of twenty-one days between the first and second approval. The amendments, however, are likely to prove only another juggle of words, by which, in the event of the separation of church and state, both parties would be seriously embarrassed in defining their liberties and rights.

The love for "investigation" has made its way into Prussia, but it does not there, as here, bring a torrent of dirty abuse on the head of anybody who proposes it. The Prussian Government owns some of the existing railroads, and constructs most of the new ones out of the treasury, and this of course affords opportunities of jobbery, which, it is now said, have in some cases been improved. Herr Lasker recently declared in his place in Parliament that for several years the contracts for the state railroads had been corruptly awarded, and accused the Minister of Commerce, Count Itzenplitz, of having bestowed them on a certain Herr Wagner, a privy councillor, who in his turn sublet them at a handsome profit, and demanded a committee of investigation. The Minister had not much to say in reply, but the Government, instead of setting its champions to call Lasker a "liar," and "adventurer," and a "dog," or fence off enquiry, has promptly appointed a commission of its own to examine the whole matter. We venture to predict, too, that the commission will try to find things out, and not to accumulate materials for whitewash.

The question of the great increase of emigration from Germany, which it was thought some time ago the Government would take some active means of checking, has been brought up in the German Parliament, and with very satisfactory results. Count Eulenberg, the Minister of the Interior, acknowledged the fact, and deplored it, but declared there was no help for it, and attributed it freely to the war, in spite of all that the war has done for the glorification of Fatherland. In the first place, the enormous rise of prices has, as is usual, not been followed by a corresponding increase of wages, and the laboring classes are suffering severely, although the Treasury is bursting with gold. In the next place, the small capitalists, who, it appears, are the class which is contributing most largely to the tide of emigration, have been seriously alarmed by the loss of life in the French war, and by the great uncertainty about the political future created by the new rôle which Germany has undertaken on the Continent, and which makes another tremendous conflict one of the everyday contingencies. They are, therefore, afraid to embark or continue in business, and are hurrying off with their little all to the only country in which the field of enterprise is not troubled by wars or rumors of wars, and where the worst enemies the industrious man has to fear are the "workers" and "operators." As a remedy for the growing scarcity of agricultural labor, the Minister recommends the increased use of machinery.

HUMAN SACRIFICES IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

WE have probably got to the end of the "Crédit Mobilier" scandal. Oakes Ames has come back with his "memorandum book," and has revealed nothing new; one of the Committees has closed its labors, and the other will shortly do so, but nobody looks to their reports with much interest or anxiety, or waits for them in order to make up his own mind. Congressional Committees of Investigation have long ceased to have anything judicial about them, and are usually employed simply to put a good face on matters which seem likely to damage "the party" in the eyes of the public. It is the evidence they take which interests people out-of-doors, and from this evidence in the Crédit Mobilier matter the country has reached certain conclusions which the report of the Committees will do nothing to modify. One thing is perfectly clear, and that is that a number of men, of high standing in the Republican party, deliberately got up last summer, during the Presidential canvass, and made statements which contained suppressions of the truth, or suggestions of falsehood, mixed in various proportions, and the object of which was to spread the belief that they had had no connection of any kind whatsoever with the Crédit Mobilier, and that the story told by McComb was a pure fiction, used by the Liberal Republicans for campaign purposes. About this there is, unhappily, no doubt. Not one of those charged, except Mr. Blaine, has succeeded in clearing himself at least of the offence of disingenuousness, which, on such a matter, is a serious offence. Now why did they commit it? Certainly not because there was anything in their eyes particularly wrong in owning Crédit Mobilier stock, or in taking it from Oakes Ames. Mr. Ames was a man of excellent standing in the commercial world, at the time these transactions took place; and according to the code which has of late years obtained among politicians, the right to deal in all sorts of commodities, and take commissions to help other people's dealings, is among the "inalienable rights" of every American citizen, which he carries with him into every position. This doctrine was broadly laid down by even so eminent an authority as the late Horace Greeley, when the matter of General Schenck's connection with the Emma Mine was under discussion. According to it, the American man is above all things a trader, or a commission agent, and remains such under all circumstances, and ought not to be asked to divest himself of that character for any purpose whatever. Nobody has ever objected to a Congressman taking stock in iron-works or in a cotton-mill, and then voting for an increase of customs duty that would add enormously to his own dividends. We doubt very much, therefore, whether public sentiment was in such a condition last summer as to make the charge of holding Crédit Mobilier stock a very serious one, unless it could be shown to have directly affected legislation. What made it a serious charge, and therefore led to the flat denials of it or evasive answers to it, was the time at which it was made; that, coming out in the midst of the canvass, it of course suggested bribery in connection with the Union Pacific, and this influence it would have been impossible to upset in time for the election; and the standing of the persons against whom the charge was made was such that "the party" must have seriously suffered at a critical moment from their silence or confession. So to save the party, rather perhaps than to save themselves, they rose one by one, and calmly assured the country that the whole thing was "a Greeley lie." In every one of these statements, it is true, a sharp casuist could, by careful reading, detect a little hole, through which a gentleman in danger of conviction for falsehood could wriggle out; but then the public is not in a casuistical frame of mind during the presidential campaign, and the denials did excellent service as "complete refutations." The party moralists took them as the text of essays on the value of "character," and when all was over, Mr. Colfax used them to point the moral of some reflections contributed by himself to the *Independent* on the question, "Does Calumny Pay?"

In this sacrifice of themselves to the party by individuals there is nothing very new or remarkable. The Republican Congressmen and the Vice-President have only done on a greater scale and with

considerable aggravation what the wretched Voorhees of Indiana did after the Greeley nomination at Baltimore. He at once repudiated the convictions solemnly avowed two short months previously, and began to utter a whole string of falsehoods, and to confess himself a cheat, without honor or self-respect, or even common intelligence, simply to help the party in persuading the country that the nominating convention had not done a foolish thing. It must be admitted, too, that a process of "natural selection," or "survival of the fittest," has long been going on in politics, and preparing us for the Crédit Mobilier and similar scandals. Men of independence of character, of high sense of honor, and of strong self-respect, which make them prefer their own opinions to other people's, who will dare to say what they think, and will not do dirty jobs, have for years past found themselves being gradually and carefully removed from public life as impracticable and "antiquated," and have seen the pliable, shallow, adroit, "genial," or unscrupulous tricksters or rhetoricians working into their places, and taking possession of public affairs. Nothing for a long while past has been punished with such sternness as want of fidelity to the party or want of amenability to its discipline—witness the treatment of Trumbull and Grimes and Fessenden during the impeachment trial, and that of Schurz and Trumbull when they voted for investigation last spring. The party has been, in fact, long preparing for itself a rich harvest of shame. Far from execrating the Crédit Mobilier victims, it ought to sit down by them, like Mrs. Bulstrode with her husband in 'Middlemarch,' and weep with them over the common disgrace. If we want to have men in public life who will not have Oakes Ames hanging about them and offering them little pecuniary favors, and who when charged with cutting down our cherry-tree will stand up and own it, we must put them into public life, and when they are in it keep them in it.

There is one feature more in this miserable business on which a word must be said before passing away from it, we hope finally, and that is the amount of cant and hypocrisy it has brought out on the part of some of the party organs. Last spring they made savage attacks on Mr. Schurz, because he had taken open payment for honest work rendered to the Republican party as a campaign orator, and accused him of shameless greed; they ransacked his accounts at the State Department to try to prove that he had overdrawn his account while in Spain. They then turned on poor Doolittle, and followed him for doing, or appearing to do, a perfectly legitimate thing, in obtaining a cotton permit for a friend during the war, and writing a ridiculous letter in support of his own claim to a share in the profits. But in the Crédit Mobilier revelations they can hardly see any impropriety, and look on at them for the most part in mournful silence, and at last, one of them actually avows itself "shocked" by the eagerness with which the public gloats over these painful stories.

Mr. Colfax's defence as that of the Vice-President of the United States, and of the most resolute and sweeping of the deniers of last summer, deserves a word of separate mention. That it could be completely successful, after the discovery that he had prevaricated in his speech at South Bend, he himself can hardly have ventured to hope. The rule of "falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus," if not absolutely fair or correct, is one which is sure to influence people in weighing testimony. He accordingly was at a considerable disadvantage, even in a simple "conflict of veracity" with Oakes Ames, but he was all but completely overwhelmed when the deposit of \$1,200 was discovered in his bank account. Now it must be admitted that he did not meet this formidable addition to the proofs against him like a man conscious of his innocence. The emergency was one which a man of honor would have faced with real ardor, in which he would have refused all delays, and discarded all pleas in abatement, and rejected all technical aids. Instead of doing this, however, or anything like this, Mr. Colfax at once became cautious and dilatory. He went before the Senate and asked for a Committee to investigate a simple matter of fact on which another Committee was awaiting his explanation; which he can hardly have

expected the Senate to grant. He employed a lawyer, too, and then went off to attend religious and moral meetings, *apparently* in the hope of weakening the case against him by drawing demonstrations of sympathy from his supporters. Worse than this, he remained silent for ten days; and worse still, he refused to put in his answer till Oakes Ames had come back, and it had been ascertained by cross-examination that he was not likely to submit any previously unsuspected proof. All this strengthened the prejudice against Mr. Colfax, and weakened, what was in itself weak, the testimony of his own family, that, some time in June, he received through the mails a \$1,000 bill from a man now dead, and who has left no trace of the donation, from which Mr. Colfax wished to have the inference drawn that this was part of his deposit on the 22d, although he made another deposit of over \$1,500 a fortnight later. The other \$200 his father-in-law swears he paid him on the 15th of June, or thereabouts, drawing his salary from a government office for the purpose. The strongest piece of evidence in Mr. Colfax's favor is his sending, on the day following his deposit, a draft for political purposes to the West. But then it is exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to get people to believe that Oakes Ames began as long as five years ago, to prepare checks and memoranda for the purpose of ruining the leading men in the Republican party, and it has to be borne in mind that, since he began his accusations, his documentary evidence has for the most part borne out his assertions. On the whole, as far as Mr. Colfax is concerned, the affair wears a very hopeless outlook. He has killed himself for "the party," and we hope his fate will be a warning to others.

THE SPANISH REVOLUTION.

THE birth of the Spanish Republic is one of those incidents which any people which had not drunk deep of the cup of degradation would find very humiliating. The Republic exists in Spain because the king, though a courageous and well-meaning man, who came on the invitation of Spanish notables, was so sick of the business of governing the nation that he ran away. He has not been annoyed by opposition to the exercise of arbitrary power, for he has not attempted to exercise it, and, in fact, has suffered from none of the usual mishaps of ambitious monarchs. He has simply found that the turbulence, disorder, want of coherence, and want of loyalty, not to him only, but to any man, principle, or system whatever, were too much for him, and having found it, like a sensible person, he took his departure, leaving, however, the Carlist troops almost in sight of the capital. His disappearance, moreover, has made only two changes in Spain. Justice will now be administered "in the name of the people," and not in the name of the king, and the Spanish state will be called a "Republic." The men who will compose the Cortes will be just the same sort of men as before; the people who elect them will be the same too; the army will probably be a little worse. The amount of virtue, and political sense, and self-restraint in the country has not, perhaps, been diminished by the revolution, but it has not been increased. The good elements in Spanish society were certainly not kept down by a monarch who, it appears, could not even prevent a promotion in the army. Now, it is natural enough that rhetoricians like Señor Castelar should flatter themselves and try to persuade others that a new era has dawned in Spain. He is one of a large band of Latin politicians, upon whom the sound of their own phrases seems to act as a kind of laughing-gas. As the words "people," "justice," "fraternity," "liberty," "humanity," "eternity," "solidarity," "universe," "Man," "Woman," "equality," "development," roll from their lips, a vision of unsurpassed national happiness and splendor opens before their eyes; they see industry flourishing, the law supreme, the taxes rolling in, and the surrounding states crazy with envy. All the mists of tradition and superstition disappear, and the golden sunlight of truth bathes the whole landscape, and the air resounds with patriotic poems and orations, and the applause of vast audiences. Any one, indeed, who read the

telegrams, and letters, and speeches which now come in every hour from Spain would imagine that Amadeus had been a bloodstained despot, who had been holding the nation in bondage. Señor Castelar and his friends doubtless do not think so, but they are all possessed with the idea which has had for so many years so powerful an influence on French politics, that there is something malefic in the word "monarchy," and something beneficial and transforming in the word "republic." It is this idea which always makes the removal of the royal insignia from public buildings, and the erasure of the royal name from streets, the earliest work of French revolutions—something to which everything else has to be postponed—and which diffused, even among soberminded Frenchmen, the curious belief, in 1870, that the proclamation of the Republic would change the fortunes of the campaign and drive the Prussians over the frontier; and it is at the bottom of the Spanish rejoicings and excitement over the abdication of Amadeus.

It would be very unfortunate if anything which came from this side of the water, from those who really know what a republic means, and what it needs, should help to strengthen this delusion. Encouragement the Spaniards need, heaven knows, for they are in a very sorry plight, but there ought not to be anything in the form of our encouragement to lead them to believe that when a people calls itself a republic, it has done anything very hopeful or remarkable. When a man who has failed half a dozen times in business, and has spent a large portion of his substance in riotous living, announces his intention to keep a hotel, and takes a house for that purpose, his friends may feel gratified, but they do not fling their caps in the air and surround him with shouts of felicitation. They wait awhile to see how he gets along, and take good care not to assure him that when he puts up a sign is the same thing as making his fortune. As Dickens has well said—"coming out" is nothing very great after all; it is by staying out that a man shows his ability. Any band of knaves and madcaps, as we well know, is competent to set up a republic; it takes statesmen and sober, industrious, self-restrained, and far-seeing people behind them to make a republic last, and any congratulation or uproar which leads men to forget this are mischievous. It may be laid down as a general rule, that any people in the world which is now capable of carrying on a constitutional monarchy is capable of carrying on a republic, and could any day start a republic with a certainty of success. We have no doubt that Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, England, and even Italy, might be converted into republics tomorrow without serious tremor or convulsion, and without seriously interfering with the course of their calm and orderly progress; and we believe also that one great reason why there is in none of these countries any strong desire for a republic, is the confidence of the people that they might establish one if they pleased. In other words, the growth of the capacity for self-government has in all of them reduced monarchy to a form which causes little or no real inconvenience, while it furnishes a link, oftentimes useful, with the past.

The desire for a republic, on the other hand, and the blind confidence that it will supply a general remedy, is usually found strongest in those countries which have shown themselves most incompetent to administer any government whatever. Indeed, it is strikingly analogous to that craving for "gratuitous credit," as they call it, among that school of socialists who think the state ought to lend every man money without interest, and which is always strongest among persons who have least ability or desire to create capital in the ordinary way of producing and saving. There are no countries in Europe in which the seeds of anarchy and social desolation are so deeply sown as Spain and France, none in which the work of government is beset by such awful difficulties, and it is accordingly in these two countries that the rampant and furious republicans most abound.

To both these countries the great value of the republic lies in the fact that it brings them down, to use the mining phrase, to "hard pan." It brings them into actual and unmistak-

able contact with their own weakness, or, in other words, furnishes them with undeniable experience of their own qualities. As long as they have a monarchy, there is always somebody on whom the blame of public disorder can be safely thrown, always somebody who is hindering the new day from dawning, and keeping the poor man from growing rich and the plain girls from finding husbands. The king or the emperor driven away, the hard facts of the situation come out in a clearer light, though not always in a perfectly clear one. Satan by no means quits the scene along with the frivolous and profligate courtiers. In France, the "Right" is still keeping the Left from introducing perfect happiness, and we have no doubt the Carlists, or it may be the army, will retard the millennium for some time to come in Spain. Few persons ever yet failed in life—according to their own story—owing to any defect in themselves. There is usually some unscrupulous though utterly paltry B. who gets the situation, or wins the prize, or secures the business, which Eternal Justice intended for A.; and in all nations which have not yet acquired the virtues in which the foundations of greatness and prosperity are laid, there is sure to be a knot of bad men hindering the right from triumphing. But, nevertheless, in a republic less of this self-deception is possible than under any other system, and Spain will gain much in education, if she gains at first in no other way, from trying the experiment.

INTERCOLLEGIATE EMULATION.

MR. T. W. HIGGINSON'S proposition touching "Intercollegiate Scholarships," in the January number of *Scribner's Monthly*, is perhaps worth a few more words than we spent upon it in reviewing the magazines of the month. The essential part of his plan is as follows: that funds be provided for the encouragement and support of scholars during a definite period of their education, without limitation either as to the institution at which their preparation shall have been made, or as to where they shall continue their study; it being thrown open to the students of all colleges to compete for the benefit of the foundation, and the successful competitors being allowed to get their further instruction where they please, in this country or abroad. So far as this goes, we are in hearty sympathy with the scheme. Liberally endowed and carefully administered scholarships are, as no one will doubt, among the most efficient attainable means for the advancement of the higher education in our land; if we want thoroughly educated and profoundly learned men, we must help those who have the capacity and the disposition to make themselves such; and if wealthy patrons of sound learning can be discovered, with wide enough views to be willing to offer such aid to the deserving, whatever their antecedents, and if organizations can be found to administer the trust properly (a practical difficulty of no small consequence, which Mr. Higginson's suggestions do not go far toward solving), the friends of American education will have reason greatly to rejoice.

But Mr. Higginson has brought forward this unexceptionable scheme in a form and connection which seem to us open to serious animadversion. The grand result, to his mind, will be the intellectual rivalry, the contest in competitive examination, of the different colleges. The leading motive with the applicants is to be the credit which they shall bring to their own nursing-mothers, by whom they are to be specially trained and fitted, in preparation for their measuring themselves against rivals from other quarters. Something like a grand national forcing-system is to be inaugurated; competition is to have its sphere raised and extended, and its inciting influence enhanced. The proposer is "satisfied that no academical emulation now known among us equals that which a system of Intercollegiate Scholarships would create." The "first scholars" in classes, who, having left their competitors behind, are now "lonely beings," would then still have some one to fight against, and their distressing sense of solitude would be relieved. We are referred to the English universities as examples of what can be accomplished in this direction. They are far ahead of our institutions in the organization of intellectual as well as athletic rivalry. In the latter, it is true, we have made a good beginning. Our general regattas are a gratifying exhibition of how college can be pitted against college, to the glory of one above the rest; we have only to utilize the same principle in a grand contest of emulative learning, and the rapid improvement of our education is assured.

In all this, we regret to find ourselves quite at variance with the proposer of the scheme. What he regards as its prominent recommendation is to us its chief drawback. We fear that, if it is carried out, there will be too much disposition to regard its prizes as means of distinction, as insignia of victory. The principle of emulation, which he would fain organize and render effec-

tive in the highest education, we look upon with distrust, almost with dislike, and would rather see it restrained and depressed to a yet lower place than it now occupies. True scholarship may be initiated, but can never be carried through, by such means. Among children and half-grown youths, emulation is doubtless a useful auxiliary, and its influence not to be rejected. But it belongs essentially in one category with the birch and the ferule, and all education is of a boyish cast until it is got rid of. Even before the end of the ordinary college course, it needs to be outgrown. Studying for a place at the head, for marks, in order to beat some one else, is an acknowledged bane of our higher institutions; to cast it out, and put in its place study for the true objects of study—the love of knowledge, the desire of self-culture, the ambition to find out and do something for the benefit of mankind—is the eager wish of every enlightened educator. We repudiate the example in this regard of the English universities. They are in far too great a degree places where, under the false stimulus of emulation, men are drilled in narrow lines of study to a tactical perfection which finds its chief reward, first in a place on a comparative list, and in personal and collegiate credit thence accruing, and then in an idle scholarship, held for personal benefit. Hence, in great measure, their barrenness as fields for the increase of knowledge, their great inferiority to the German institutions as concerns the amount of work done in them and the number of great scholars produced. Let us by all means avoid their evil example in the conduct of our education. By the time our students leave college, if not before, let us cease to foster in them a disposition to glory-seeking, either for themselves or for others. There is a legitimate satisfaction in well-earned fame, and in the reflection of that fame upon one's surroundings; but it has its roots in the lower part of our nature, and is only legitimate when thoroughly kept down in a subordinate place; in the weakness of humanity, it tends always to rise above what is better, and our organized effort needs to be directed to its repression rather than its encouragement.

What is least to our mind, however, in Mr. Higginson's paper, is the way in which he glorifies the competitive athletic interest, and its most conspicuous result, the intercollegiate regatta. Surely he greatly overstates and misstates the case when, speaking of the contest of last July, he says that "at night, when the news came that Amherst had won, the name of this modest institution was uttered from a thousand lips with more flattering emphasis than if it had been announced as having given birth to a new Shakespeare"; and again, "The man who pulls his oar or trains his crew with such success as to send the name of his college flashing over the wires, so that the poorest schoolmaster in a Western log-hut may look up with pride and say, '*Et ego in Arcadiâ*,—I also am a son of Amherst'—he is and must be the hero of his little world, while human nature holds its own." Here is almost ludicrous exaggeration. If the effect of Amherst's training is such that this is true of her alumni, she is not at all entitled to the name of "modest," since modesty implies a certain foundation of merit. A schoolmaster of the kind here contemplated would indeed be of the poorest, with little chance of ever emerging from his log-hut. There are doubtless those to whom a successful athlete is more than a second Shakespeare; but, in discussing educational questions, we ordinarily leave the opinions of that class entirely out of the account. An international prize-fight, in like manner, attracts a wonderful amount of interest, and is more flashed over the wires than any purely intellectual contest would be; thousands are willing to risk their money on its result, and perhaps even the best of us, much as he may be ashamed of himself for it, feels a wish that our champion may win, and is mortified if he is beaten. Now we do not at all mean to put boating-matches on a par with prize-fights; and yet there is an undeniable analogy between them. The low-minded and brutal are those who watch the latter with the keenest eagerness, and the interest in the other is likely to be inversely as an appreciation of the true objects of college life. A college is something better than a training-place for athletes; it needs, indeed, a good hearty and healthy physical training to accompany and aid its intellectual work, and should take all due measures to encourage such; but whether the intercollegiate regatta is a desirable means to this good end is not a little doubtful, and the college authorities may yet be obliged to suppress it, out of regard to higher interests. It may prove such an unnatural and harmful outgrowth of the manly art of boating, as is the prize-fight of the equally manly art of self-defence, or the race-course of the efforts to improve the breed of horses. The three are alike in the incidents of wild excitement, unruly conduct, and desperate betting; and they are alike in their essential tendency to produce a breed of highly trained animals, whose whole education is to culminate in the execution of a tremendous effort of strength and skill during a few minutes. Every considerable college has within its own limits the means of sufficient emulation to keep up its boating system to the desirable point of efficiency; and the more this is varied and spread through all grades of all classes, the better.

If the regatta crews could be drawn by lot from the body of undergraduates, so that the chance of selection would call out a general physical education, the whole aspect of the case would be very different. As it is, the accidents of available material and a successful professional training are most likely to determine the result of any trial, with all its consequences. The excitement and strain which, if divided up among a whole college community, would be healthy and animating, is concentrated in a limited number of individuals, to their detriment. At a meeting of the Yale Alumni Club in Philadelphia, a few years ago, a representative of the boating interest was alleging on its behalf that it did not interfere with study, instancing as a proof the respectable standing of even the university crews in their classes; when Professor Hadley, who was present, remarked in his quiet way that he acknowledged the fact, and had always thought it the reason why Yale was so often beaten. There can be no question that the true interests of education often suffer in our colleges, as they most conspicuously do at Oxford and Cambridge and the great public schools of England, by an exaggeration of the interest in physical training.

Mr. Higginson does not formally take sides with the worshippers of athletic skill, preferring to "waive the question [as if it were a question!] whether the precedence given to the boatmen over the bookmen be a good or an evil." But the influence of his paper is cast strongly with the athletic interest; he would not check the intensity of muscular competition, but only put beside it a mental competition which should outbid it. By thus, as it were, tolerating the turning of the underside of college life uppermost, and proposing to mend the matter only by bringing the lowest motives of intellectual exertion to the top, he is in danger, as it appears to us, of doing more harm than good. If we are to have our system of Intercollegiate Scholarships, let them be instituted under the government of sounder and purer motives.

THE NEGRO PROBLEM IN VIRGINIA.

HAMPTON, VIRGINIA, Jan. 29.

THIS little town, which is now half-buried in dirt and debris, and haunted by the very spirit of desolation, was once, in the distant days "before the war," a fashionable Virginian watering-place, and by virtue of its charming sea surroundings and its near neighborhood to Fortress Monroe was a favored resort of the First Families, of whose roomy, out-at-elbows, unthrifty houses one or two have outlived the peril of fire and shot. Its claim to antiquity of origin dates, however, from a time when First Families were not, for from its position it became the headquarters of the colonists who landed here after their weary Atlantic voyages, and made it the base of operations for their expeditions up the various rivers which empty into the Chesapeake Bay. The present St. John's Church of Hampton was built between 1660 and 1667, and the records of the court, which date from 1635, furnish evidence of a still earlier church, in whose graveyard the scions of many an old English house found refuge from hardships too great for even British hearts of oak to endure. The town was sacked in the war of 1812, and had scarcely forgotten the wounds then inflicted on it when the rebellion was declared, and the two contending armies settled their part-colored swarms upon this ill-fated corner of the sacred soil. Along the eastern shore of Hampton Creek the Union lines were entrenched all through the long years of the war, and here was issued the world-famed order of General Butler, which declared black fugitives to be "contraband of war," and covered every inch of the soil protected by the guns of Fortress Monroe with the hastily erected cabins of escaped slaves. The largest number collected at any time in this district was 10,000, and as only a small proportion could be employed by the Government, the suffering among them was so great as to create a demand upon the philanthropic energy of the nation at large, which was first answered in an organized form by the American Missionary Association, whose missionary, Mr. Lockwood, came into the contraband camps in 1861, and, under the favorable régime of General Butler, succeeded in establishing primary schools of the simplest description in the midst of the almost hopeless ignorance of the ex-slaves.

The result of this first incomplete educational effort bids fair, at the present time, to make Hampton the scene of an experiment of national importance. It required no keen eye to see, five years ago, that one-half of the Southern problem would be solved when a class of skilled laborers should be created, to whose hands the material wealth of the country could be entrusted, and, further than this, to perceive that for the present such a class could be drawn, in the nature of things, only from the superabundant colored population. It was these considerations which led, in the years directly following the war, to the establishment among the freedmen in the neighborhood of Fortress Monroe of a school on a larger scale than anything then in existence, which was incorporated in 1870, by the General Assembly of Virginia, under the name of the "Hampton Normal and

Agricultural Institute," and put under the direction of a body of trustees fairly representing both Northern and Southern sentiment. One hundred and twenty-five acres of good farming land were bought, buildings put up, and a remarkably complete manual-labor system adopted, in which has been embodied the best experience of our own and of other nations, with certain adaptations to the peculiar exigencies of the position which speak well for its originators. The success of the school, which is now beyond a doubt, has been marked by three distinctive features, all of which are significant of a hopeful future, and encourage the belief that the education of the negro is entirely practicable, if undertaken upon a reasonable basis. The first noticeable fact in the history of this experiment has been the eagerness of the blacks themselves to take advantage of the opportunity offered them, and their appreciation of the value of education, for the sake of which they are willing to make real and great sacrifices; while as a result in part of this has grown up the second special advantage of the system, viz., that the broadly inclusive training that is provided manufactures from the raw material of the students a class of graduates which exactly meets the demand of the Southern market. This demand is at present principally for primary colored-school teachers, who, without having passed through any extensive academical course, are still well-grounded in the ordinary branches of English education, who can support themselves in vacations, etc., by the labor of their hands, and can supply general practical information to their pupils and the people among whom they live. The Hampton graduates, of whom a large number are already in the field, so nearly fulfil these requirements that the testimony of the Virginia school superintendents (all of whom, of course, are Southern men) is almost unvarying as to the ability which they gain from their three years' experience of a carefully applied manual-labor system. It must be remembered, also, in estimating the value of this school as an educational centre, that it is the principal source from which several State governments can draw this class of employees, and the ratio of illiteracy throughout Virginia and North Carolina is directly in proportion to the educational facilities which Hampton is enabled to offer. The third fact which substantiates the correctness of the theory upon trial is, that it looks so manifestly towards the development of Southern resources that already any fear of political opposition is done away with, and all intelligent Southerners who know anything of the school are more than favorably inclined towards it. The State itself has given to Hampton, in its character of an agricultural college, one-third of the land scrip, amounting to about \$95,000, and the present Legislature will probably make a handsome appropriation for the immediate emergency.

The special meeting of the trustees which took place a few days ago, gave a striking illustration of the possibility of the better class of Northern and Southern politicians and philanthropists meeting upon common ground for common work. There were present on that occasion ten trustees and five curators (two of whom are colored men) representing a wide diversity of opinion, and ranging from the members of the American Missionary Association to Col. Robert W. Hughes, a fire-eating rebel, and while editor of the *Richmond Enquirer*, whose courteous manner and high place in the records of Southern chivalry fairly qualify him to represent the old school of Virginia gentlemen. The first speech of the day was made by Dr. W. H. Ruffner, State Department of Education, who is doing good service by his devotion to the cause and the liberality of his views in respect to the common-school system of the State. This expression of opinion was remarkable as coming from a Virginian, addressing upon Virginia soil an audience four-fifths of whom were negroes, while one-half of the remainder were Northern men and women. The spirit of it was most encouraging to the students who listened to him, for he not only wiped away much of the obloquy of their past, but held out to them the promise that here, in their own home and among their own people, work was waiting for them which would make their citizenship a reality and an honor. Gen. Howard followed Dr. Ruffner in a characteristic speech, and, before the close of the meeting, a resolution was carried, in view of the marked success and rapid growth of the school, appointing a committee of gentlemen to proceed at once in the erection of a system of college buildings that shall cost not less than \$130,000, and altogether surpass anything of the kind yet attempted south of Washington. The public men of Virginia are showing a grasp of the points at issue, and an amount of common sense in dealing with them, which place their State in advance of most of its sisters, and are really admirable and deserving of recognition. The feeling here is that nothing would go so far towards propitiating the South, or producing the gradual political reconciliation which is so much to be desired, as the bestowal of a Cabinet position upon Virginia, and there are certainly men within the borders of the State who could accept such rank with the intention and capacity to do loyal service. In any case, the endeavor of the State government to initiate certain practical reforms, among which the popular-

ization of education stands foremost, is worthy of note, and while it is evident that, for some time to come, much must be done by Northern men and Northern money, yet the inclination of the Virginian people to receive such assistance and to do their share towards its permanent utilization is most satisfactory. That such an institution as Hampton should have taken root and flourished on Virginia soil does credit to its founders and to the State, and an examination of the theory which practice has proved to be so successful may go far towards elucidating some of the more serious problems of Southern politics and society.

M. F. A.

DUMAS'S FEMME DE CLAUDE.

PARIS, Jan. 30, 1873.

THERE is a small village near Dieppe, called Puys, where only a few fishermen live in winter. The Marquis of Salisbury has found its situation so charming, that he has built a large house on the cliff which overlooks the sea, where he lives in complete retirement, with his children, in the warm season. The place was, however, not discovered by him, and not far from his beautiful country place is a small house which Alexander Dumas *filis* built, many years ago. The name of Alexander Dumas is just now in every mouth, since the appearance of his new piece, "*La Femme de Claude*," and I may, perhaps, be permitted to apply to him the method of Sainte-Beuve, which consists in studying the man before the author. It is no libel to say, what everybody knows, that Alexander Dumas the father lived all his life, to his very last day, outside of the rules and conventions of the world. His son is not legitimate; from his early years, he was accustomed to see his father surrounded with men and women of pleasure, spending money as fast as he made it. Alexander Dumas the father had all the charms and all the defects of the race to which he belonged; he was gay, thoughtless, generous, fond of all the luxuries of life, a child in character, a materialist in philosophy. His son did not inherit his character; the sight of disorder made him very orderly; the extravagance of his father taught him the value of capital. He became soon the protector, the banker of the famous novelist; he has carefully acquired for himself a good fortune. He is almost melancholy in his disposition, with a decided tinge of bitterness which is found in most natural children. Notwithstanding his name, he had great difficulty in making his way in the literary world; he has not the easy manner of his father; he works slowly, with difficulty. His first books were hardly noticed, and they certainly were vastly inferior to his later ones. He has been constantly working, improving his style, enlarging his ideas. But the most curious trait of his character is this: born and educated, as it were, out of the pale of religion and of morality, he has gradually constructed for himself a system of morality. He considers himself, and he is, to a certain extent, an inventor. Just as the once famous Caussidière said that he had, during a revolution, made order out of disorder, Dumas has extracted virtue out of vice. His merit, in this respect, can only be well understood by those who have had some insight into the famous *demi-monde*, which he has attempted to paint, and in which he has spent the greater part of his life, with the extraordinary society so well depicted already by Balzac, which combines adventurers, journalists, literary men, modern Aspasias, rich bankers, demoralized foreigners of every race. The *Rastignacs*, the *Bixious*, the *Mesdames Marnesse*, of Balzac, have multiplied tenfold during the Empire; they form a dangerous freemasonry of wit, of beauty, of elegance, of scepticism. The younger Dumas's genius has drunk all the poisons of the Parisian hot-house, and, by a curious law of contrast, these poisons have finally produced in his mind a mania for preaching and moralizing; only he preaches on the stage. He has not the austerity of an apostle, neither does he wish to render vice attractive, but he knows that vice is often attractive.

His conversion has been a slow one, and it has been long unconscious. There is a curious development from the "*Dame aux Camélias*," where his heroine is still made interesting and lovable, to the "*Femme de Claude*," who is an incarnate devil, black with every crime. How was this conversion operated? Not by religion. Dumas has not been influenced by the lessons of the church; he has only learned the hard lessons of life; but this would not have been enough. He has been converted to virtue by science, and the originality of his morality lies especially in this fact that it is scientific. I must explain this expression: Dumas, like Sainte-Beuve, like Taine, like Renan, has been very attentive to the discoveries of science. The doctrine of development, the theories of Darwin, have a deep connection with social questions. Darwinism, which has assumed in England a strictly scientific character, has been applied in France to the development of races, of the human mind, finally of human societies. If there is any truth in a theory which has found anatomical links between mankind and the simian tribe, there must surely be also relations which are not of a physical order. In a word, it may be said that there is still an animal in man, that in every one of us there is the simian department of instinct and the human department

of intelligence, of will, and of morality. The analysis of the passions has been undertaken from this new point of view, and it has been carried very far by physiologists as well as by philosophers. I may perhaps be allowed to cite, in connection with this subject, a few lines from the preface of the second edition of '*Les Problèmes*,' which has just appeared:

"Darwin has shown how the smallest advantage assures the supremacy of an animal variety. But where is the animal which can himself conquer any instrument of supremacy? Man only can do it; he can modify his body by hygiene, by medicine, by exercise, by dress, by architecture; but he can conquer other advantages than strength, stature, health, fecundity; he has an all-powerful arm, intellect, which he can sharpen. . . . There is a natural selection of man, but human liberty is one of the forces which rule this selection; and the more civilization advances, the more this force predominates. . . . Science shows man, peoples, races, that existence is a perpetual struggle; it does not invite them to laziness, but to work; its teachings are the same as those of morality, which orders self-command, sacrifice, order, moderation, stoicism."

From an Epicurean, Dumas, under the influences of science, has become finally a moralist; he has learnt that in the passion of love, which chiefly concerns the novel-writer and the dramatist, there is something vile and simian mixed up with something which may be called divine. There are various stages of this passion, as well as of any other, which at a given time get personified and embodied not only in individuals but in nations and in races. In his last curious book, called '*L'Homme-Femme*,' he classifies women thus: Women of the temple, women of the fireside (the home), women of the streets—saints, matrons, and sinners. Now, all his dramatic theory is founded on the belief that these three classes, which are convertible by the slow action of selection, are totally inconvertible at a given time. He goes even farther; just as Agassiz has called prophetic types those types which in the paleontological succession appear, so to speak, before their time, Dumas believes that there are always types of the simian age, even in the most cultured and moral societies. The "*femme de Claude*" is one of those types. She is the mere slave of instinct; she follows her career of adultery, of crime, of vice, without any remorse, without any doubt; she cannot be converted. This Calvinistic doctrine of total depravity has somewhat horrified the French public. It goes directly against those pleasant milk-and-water theories of sin and repentance. Your guilty wife, your bad mother, your "*femme de Claude*," who robs the scientific secret of her husband in order to sell it herself, is fallen from grace; kill her! And he does kill her at the end of the fifth act; her husband becomes her judge and her executioner.

This dénouement asserts, however, the dangerous doctrine of the right of individual justice. I doubt if Dumas himself would seriously advise any of his friends to behave like his Claude. His piece is really a plea for divorce; but if he cannot get the right of divorce for an outraged husband or an outraged wife, he falls back on the natural rights of self-defence.

The public of the first representations in the Parisian theatres is not so much distinguished for its severity in morals as for its cleverness; the new piece of Dumas was not very well received by it. The frivolous judges of both sexes were shocked by the brutality of the husband, by his insensibility to all the blandishments of his treacherous wife, by the horrible logic which showed so many sins following each other in a fatal succession, and seeming to indicate that maternal cruelty, murder, and theft are the natural children of adultery. But the new piece has been better received by the French bourgeoisie, which is, on the whole, very moral. It is certainly a painful fact that adultery should play such a part in modern pieces; yet it is no longer treated like a mere farce but as a heinous crime. There is an evident desire in Dumas's piece to build up a better code of marriage, and I cannot find fault with his desire to introduce divorce rather than adultery as the remedy for unhappy unions.

I have read with much pleasure an article of one of your travelling correspondents on the French stage. He has done full justice to our admirable school of actors, and among others to Mademoiselle Desclée, who plays the painful and difficult part of "*la femme de Claude*." When I was at Florence a few years ago, she belonged to a small French troupe which was giving representations in Italy. She was then quite unknown in France. Private theatrical representations were then the fashion in Florence, and Mlle. Desclée had the good fortune to be admitted to several houses, where she acted as a theatrical adviser, and I have no doubt that she acquired there that admirable ease, the manner of a woman of the world, for which she is now so much admired. She is not an actress, she lives her part, as it were. She is the very type of the modern woman, who is all nerve, and vibrates, as it were, with every new sensation and emotion. How different from Rachel, who was so statuesque, so calm and melodious even in her passion; but how admirable in her way. She is now, with Madame Pasca, who is in St. Petersburg, the most perfect actor of the modern drama and of character.

She is not handsome, but her face is like a mirror of intelligence and passion; and she seems, if I might say so, more real than if she was very handsome. She personifies the anxious character, the complicated features of our modern civilization, the predominance of the nervous over the vascular system. Dumas may consider himself very happy to have found such an interpreter for his bold character. Your correspondent has justly praised the school of actors of the Théâtre Français; the Gymnase now ranks second on the list, though it receives no subvention from the state. But I have often noticed that even at the most inferior theatres there are very remarkable actors. Ought we to consider this perfection of the French stage as a mark of superiority? or is there something of the simian instinct in this perfect faculty of imitation? I leave this to the philosophers to decide.

Notes.

WE have received what purports to be on its titlepage a "new edition revised and corrected" of Mr. Richard Grant White's 'Words and their Uses' (New York: Sheldon & Co. 1872). In a circular which accompanies it the publishers also speak of it as a "new and improved edition," and "carefully revised and enlarged." This appears, however, to have been true in 1870, when the present plates were made, rather than now, as we are unable to detect any alterations or additions. Time has certainly not brought wisdom to Mr. White on the subject of his eleventh chapter, "is being done," and thirty of the weakest pages in the book are retained in spite of the frequent exposures of his fallacy concerning "exists existing." He has, by the way, as we expected he would in due time, fallen foul of the perfectly well-established phrase "had rather," which he tears to pieces in the January *Galaxy*. A writer in the *American Educational Monthly* for February has had no difficulty in confuting him on this topic also.—In our review of the magazines for February (No. 393), when speaking, on p. 100, of the notorious Spanish Jesuits Escobar and the rest, we allowed our pen and the types to say that none of them had ever set foot in Spain. Most of our readers, we dare say, made the proper correction of "France." Another error in the same number was less obvious, but quite as complete. The author of the *North American Review* article on the "Rise of Napoleonism in France" is Professor C. K. Adams, not Kendall.—Mr. Froude, it is announced, will contribute a series of historical articles to *Scribner's Monthly*.—The Boston Public Library has at last been opened on Sunday, but only as yet in the afternoon and evening, and with access only to periodicals and books of reference. The attendance has been large, orderly, and respectable, and the selection of reading (as it could hardly fail to be) eminently proper and edifying.—We were more than usually forgetful in omitting to mention last week, among the sources of information on the Creole dialects, Mr. Addison Van Name's comprehensive paper on the subject, published in the *Transactions of the American Philological Association* for 1870.—J. R. Osgood & Co. have become the American publishers of the *Practical Magazine*, of which the first number (for January) has reached this country. It would be a long story to enumerate its contents, and we had best borrow its own account of itself as "an illustrated cyclopædia of industrial news, inventions and improvements, collected from foreign and British sources, for the use of those concerned in raw materials, machinery, manufactures, building, and decoration." This broadly includes all mankind, but the magazine is not exactly designed for general reading, nor for uneducated producers, workers, or carriers. Professional men and the heads of great industrial or commercial houses will find in it plenty of suggestion and information. The magazine is handsomely printed and illustrated. The opening article is a history of the Rothschilds, with numerous portraits and other woodcuts.

—A correspondent writes us as follows: When one's friend has been for years indulging a fond belief in his ownership of some rare and choice volume—if not unique yet in all possibility "the only copy in this country"—it seems a pity to disturb his happiness; but when one boasts publicly of possessing such a treasure it is perhaps worth while to be a little more critical. Referring then to your comments upon a "A Literary Curiosity" in the February *Atlantic*, I can state that there is one copy of "Goethe's Correspondence with a Child: For his Monument" in the Mercantile Library of Brooklyn, and I am confident of having seen one or more copies mentioned in foreign booksellers' catalogues. The writer of "A Literary Curiosity" may, however, have been nearer right in his conjecture than the authors of most of the paragraphs one sees going the rounds of the press with reference to "book rarities." Many persons, especially in the rural districts, count themselves the possessors of something rich and rare if they discover some old printed heirloom one hundred and fifty or two hundred years old, whereas

the article may be of no earthly account. These "heirlooms" are sometimes queer things. Mr. Quaritch, the eminent London bookseller, states that he has more than once been offered a copy of one of the original Shakespearean folios, which the very respectable families who had doubtlessly very unwittingly concluded to part with it, assured him had been in their possession for more than one hundred years, but which upon examination proved to be the reprint of the first edition, worth as many dollars as the original is worth hundreds of dollars. Experienced book-buyers do not need to be told that a book is not necessarily valuable for having been printed in the sixteenth century, and as for "incunabula" they are much more numerous in this country than the average newspaper paragraphist has any idea of.

—The report of the proceedings at the farewell dinner given to Professor Tyndall in this city is in course of preparation, and will, we believe, be shortly issued by the Messrs. Appleton. It will contain also a letter of considerable length from Professor Henry, who was expected to preside, but was obliged to decline at the last moment. The dinner was perhaps one of the most interesting social collisions—if we may use the expression—between natural science and theology which has yet taken place, and was marked by perfect good temper and good feeling on both sides. Professor Tyndall's speech was especially interesting, being neither more nor less than a long sermon, seasoned by the experience of a most laborious and successful life, and it appropriately closed a visit which has left, we believe, most delightful memories in his mind, as well as in those of the thousands who listened to him here and learned to love him. He proved one of the luckiest as well as most deserving of lecturers.

—A bill passed the House on Tuesday week, lowering letter postage to two cents—a change which we deem uncalled-for, if not unwise and wasteful—and making newspaper postage payable in advance at the post-office of the place of publication—to which we see no objection. The mode in which this prepayment is to be made (after July 1) is left to the Postmaster-General; but from the language of the bill (which speaks of "collection"), we infer that the use of stamps is not contemplated. The embarrassment which this would cause, especially to the daily press, would be incalculable. We hope, also, that the department itself will not be expected to stamp "prepaid," as now, upon newspapers brought directly from the publishing office. Unstamped papers from any other source ought not to be received at the post-office; all unstamped papers so received ought to be forwarded as quickly as they can be assorted. To mark them "prepaid" would be entirely superfluous. Even now, for the small proportion of matter thus marked, the delays occasioned are most vexatious. What would they be if the daily and weekly metropolitan issues had to be separately handled and stamped! We take it, therefore, that the post-office will deal hereafter, as heretofore, with the newspaper subscription-mail in the gross—in bags and parcels—and not in detail. It remains for the Postmaster-General to establish regulations which shall protect the Government against fraud. In place of the present shiftlessness of the newspaper service, we should expect a methodical book-keeping that would require of every newspaper a frequent statement of its mail circulation—averaged, of course, and certified in some formal manner—and prompt settlements; of the post-office, exact accounts. Then let us see whether the delivery of papers cannot be made to vie with that of letters, even for the most distant points.

—A word more on the inequitable provision, which we trust the Senate may strike out, by which weekly papers will continue to circulate free in the county in which they are printed. Let us treat this whole matter from a business point of view, or let us take for all papers the sentimental ground which now accrues to the benefit of country weeklies alone. It is notorious that the law is so construed by the department that the delivery of weekly papers in large cities has to be prepaid even when the city and county limits are identical, as in New York.

—Mr. Charles Reade's latest novel, or rather tale, 'The Wandering Heir,' contains a rather graphic bit of description of love, card-playing, low-life-above-stairs society in Ireland in the last century, which it seems is, for the most part, a paraphrase of some of Swift's 'Journal of a Modern Lady.' For instance, Swift says:

"The modern dame is wak'd by noon.

She stretches, gapes, unglues her eyes,
And asks if it be time to rise;
Of headache and the spleen complains;
And then to cool her brains,
Her night-gown and her slippers brought her,
Takes a large dram of citron-water.
Then to her glass; and, 'Betty, pray
Don't I look frightfully to-day?
But, was it not confounded hard?
Well, if I ever touch a card!
Four matadores and lose a card!'

while Mr. Reade says:

"At 12 next day Miss Gregory was prematurely disturbed by her lap-dog, barking like a demon for his breakfast. She stretched, gaped, unglued her eyes, and rang for Betty. . . . 'Here child. Let in some light. Nay not so much: wouldst blind me? I'm dead of the vapors. Get me a dram of citron-water. So. Now bring me a looking-glass. I will lie abed. Alack! I look frightfully to-day. If ever I touch a card again. Didst ever see such luck as mine? Four Matadores, and lose Codille!'"

These similarities, and others quite as striking, having been pointed out in the *Athenaeum* of January 4, by a writer under the signature of "C. F.," Mr. Reade retorts that the 'Wandering Heir' is one of the best books that he, Charles Reade, ever wrote; that as for plagiarism, if you adopt such a test as "C. F.," proposes, Shakespeare was a plagiarist; and further that "C. F." is a "pseudonymuncle" (petty writer, using a pseudonym), and a "skunk." "C. F." has now written again to explain that "C. F." are her real initials, that she is a lady living a retired life in a quiet English village, having no interest, except a literary one, in the matter, and reminds Mr. Reade, in a very modest way, that it is never too late to mend.

—"But, whilst he thought to steal the single ten,
The king was slyly finger'd from the deck."
Third pt. K. Henry VI., act 5, sc. 1.

Johnson gives, as one definition of "deck," "Pack of cards piled regularly on each other." This definition has come down to the last revised edition of Webster, in which it appears on the authority of "Hoyle"; and yet nothing is more evident than that the being "piled regularly on each other" is no part of the original denotation of "deck." To deck—A. S. *decan*, Germ. *decken*—is "to cover," "to conceal"; and, as a heap is what is heaped, a pile what is piled, a store what is stored, a deck is what is *decked*, i.e., covered, hid. Applied to a pack of cards, it denotes primarily the *hidden store* from which each player receives his portion; the cards before they are *faced* or shown to the players. Massinger, in 'The Guardian' (iii. 3), writes:

"And for a song I have
A paper-blurrier, who on all occasions,
For all times, and all seasons, hath such trinkets
Ready in the deck";

meaning, notes Gifford, in "the *heap*, or, technically speaking, the *gross*"; and quotes from 'Selimus, Emperour of the Turks' (1594):

"Well, if I chance but once to get the deck,
To deal about and shuffle as I would," etc.

In the former passage "a heap or pile of ballads is so called"—not, as Nares thought it to be, "in allusion to a pack of cards," but in the sense in which the word was commonly used in Massinger's time—a reserved or hidden store. Two or three instances of this use of the word by writers who certainly did not borrow a figure from a pack of cards may be given here. They have apparently escaped the notice of all the commentators. Thomas Cartwright, the Puritan—Shakespeare's senior by thirty years—in 'A Confutation of the Rhemists Translation' (first printed in 1618), commenting on the parable of the good Samaritan, speaks of the two pence given to the host, as to be "reserved in the *Decke* untill circumstances draw it forth" (p. 180). The Rev. Thomas Hooker, of Chelmsford, Essex, and afterwards of Hartford, Connecticut, in a treatise on 'The Application of Redemption,' printed in 1659, wrote:

"If a man's confession be of the right make, not counterfeit, but curreant, he shal not only have mercy reserved for him in the *Deck*, but he shal have the use of it, find the sweet of it, he shal find mercy pardoning," etc. (p. 626).

"—of this rank [those who strive to hide their sins] are these, when the stals of Conscience and the pressure of their spirits constrain them to confess, and seek for ease, their complaints are like lapwings' cries, farthest from their nest or their bosom-distempers which lye in the *deck*, . . . and therefore they conceive that they are under a safe cover, little shame will fall to their share," etc. (p. 654).

Mr. Richard Grant White, in a note on Shakespeare's "from the deck," regards the derivation "from A. S. *decan*, to cover, because one card covers another," as a fanciful and unsatisfactory etymology. It might be such if no better reason could be found for it than "because one card covers another," or, as Johnson has it, because the cards are "piled regularly." The cards in a pack, before they are dealt to the players, are "decked," i.e., covered, *unseen*; like the songs of Massinger's paper-blurrier, they are "ready in the deck."

—The new Latin Pronunciation, or the Old Latin Pronunciation—just as one chooses to call it—has at last received an official or semi-official sanction in England. At the request of the Headmasters of Schools, a 'Syllabus of Latin Pronunciation' has been prepared by Professors Edwin Palmer and H. A. J. Munro. The Syllabus itself is of no special interest, the pronunciation recommended differing only in a few unimportant particulars from that laid down in the little pamphlet of Professor Lane. But as the advocates of the "lost cause" in this country appeal to English usage as an unanswerable argument for retaining the English sounds in Latin, we cannot forbear quoting the introductory words of the English "Syllabus":

"The Headmasters of Schools, at their conference held in 1871, declared the system of Latin pronunciation prevalent in England to be unsatisfactory, and agreed to ask the Latin professors of Oxford and Cambridge 'to draw up and issue a joint paper to secure uniformity in any change contemplated.' This request they repeated at their meeting of 1872. As we are ourselves agreed in all essential points, and find that there is a considerable body of opinion in the universities and elsewhere in harmony with our views, we beg to offer the following brief suggestions, etc., etc."

—We take from the *Perseveranza* the following figures, showing the population of the four countries named, the number of troops in arms (exclusive of officials and gendarmes), and the ordinary war-budget for 1873, as voted by the respective parliaments:

| | Population. | Standing Army. | War-budget. |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Italy..... | 26,801,154 | 173,413 | 148,356,585 |
| France..... | 36,102,000 | 425,000 | 430,973,300 |
| Germany..... | 41,058,196 | 401,659 | 337,659,365 |
| Austria-Hungary..... | 35,904,435 | 245,000 | 222,733,893 |

From this it is easy to calculate that there is in Italy one soldier for every 154 inhabitants; in France, one for every 85; in Germany, one for every 102; in Austria-Hungary, one for every 146. The cost of this soldier is in Italy 855 francs; in France, 1,014; in Germany, 840; in Austria, 909. The most efficient and most thoroughly equipped service in Europe thus appears to be also the most economical; and further, it is clear that whatever sense of security or insecurity Italy may have, the peace of the Continent is least menaced by her, while France exhibits, as of old, a disproportionate and unnecessary armament, maintained at an expense which ought (taking Germany as a standard) to ensure her 14 defenders per 1,000 inhabitants, instead of about 12.

CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH ART.*

WHAT might have been the use of criticism to art is a problem of which we yet possess no element of solution, as published criticism has been retrospective to such a degree that there is no instance on record of any, even partial, influence of literary work in making a genuine school of art, or even of such influence preserving a school from that apparently inevitable decadence which waits on perfect fulfilment. A naturalistic school of painting might respond to purely intellectual demands, but one of genuine art has not as yet done so, in spite of the intimate relations which are kept up between the arts in our own day.

And of the criticism of the two nations which now show most markedly the presence of genuine artistic genius (in the art of design be it understood), the French and English, the influence of criticism is equally idle, or, at best, retrospective and laic. The sources of art inspiration are no more in one than the other opened by logical or scientific investigation, but rather choked, and art forms, instead of being perfected by the knowledge of laws and canons, are simply petrified. The French, by dint of schools of fine arts of the academic type, succeed in making many good draughtsmen and mechanists. The English flounder on in greater technical ignorance, but in no more complete ineffectiveness, and what the Royal Academy does not do in depraving art by its shopkeeping exclusiveness, the school at South Kensington does by its finical and mole-eyed fan-and-furniture abominations of designing.

Yet there is as wide a difference between the schools of criticism as of those of art—the English, chaotic, contradictory, now unintelligent to a degree almost incredible, now sympathetic and erudite, but always the expression of individual tastes and preferences, only with no more reason for its liking than the art it studies has for existing; the French with a tone and character, a rational tendency and scholastic coherence which no other art-literature possesses, and as faithfully paralleling the art; and in one as in the other, the criticism is always child of the art and not its instructor.

But as between the two schools of criticism, there is this to be said for the Gallic, that one rarely gets from it opinions without knowledge or formed without reference to some cardinal principles of criticism. There is a certain coincidence even in its differences, and whatever may be the views of the critic as to the sects of painters, one does not meet with such blind deference to unintelligent and uneducated public opinion, or such ignorant admiration of the bizarre and vulgar in painting, as one meets constantly in the journalistic criticisms of art in England. Low as is English art, in the large majority of its manifestations, English criticism is still lower in its laudation of those manifestations.

'English Artists of the Present Day' is a fair sample of book-making, and contains more than average examples of English art criticism, the most interesting articles being on Millais and Holman Hunt, respectively by Sidney Colvin and F. G. Stephens, perhaps the most thoroughly philosophical being that on Cave Thomas, by J. L. Tupper. The book as a whole is, to

*'English Artists of the Present Day. Essays by Bearington Atkinson, Sidney Colvin, F. G. Stephens, Tom Taylor, and J. L. Tupper, with 13 photographs.' London: Seeley, Jackson & Halliday.

outsiders, marred by the primary necessity, for a book addressed to the English public, of showing that the English painters of the day in reality are great artists—on the whole quite fit to be paged with Titian and Michael Angelo. As this does no harm to the world at large, there can be no special reason shown for its not being done; and so the public is fully persuaded that Landseer is the greatest of animal painters, and Millais another Velasquez, with an added nineteenth century polish. As Mr. Colvin well and fairly puts it: "For the Academy public, now and for some years past, it may be said that this artist (Millais) has passed as being above criticism, and that which he has done as beyond demerit." The truth is, however, that Millais's great virtue consists in his power in wielding his brush and his execution of details, and in this the main reason of his facility is that he is embarrassed by no larger aims and diverted by no prior necessity either to obey any ideal or consult the greater unities. Millais's triumphs in rendering what he sees are all the more surprising as well as complete from his seeing only the surface—as the eloquence of some orators is surprising until we come to consider what they have said. A single sentence in what Mr. Colvin says, speaking of Millais's connection with pre-Raphaelitism, will show what is the weakness of modern English art: "The common effort of the brotherhood (in so far as they formulated it to themselves) was to set aside the traditions of the schools (by which painting was taught to copy other painting), and to break for the art a new path, just as the first Italian painters had done by self-teaching and the copying of what they saw."

It is impossible to say that the "brotherhood," if that was their aim, were wrong, for so far as Millais and Holman Hunt are concerned, their aims and talents are far more naturalistic than artistic; and what they or their followers might do was of no great importance as art, whatever it might be in imitation of nature, in which direction they have unquestionably given a strong lead. But to talk of setting aside the traditions of art in favor of imitation of nature, is like going back from Beethoven and Mozart to bird-songs and nature music. Art is (and this the modern English school does not seem to be able to comprehend) not an imitation of nature, but systematic and harmonious expression of the emotions which rise in the human mind, be nature the cause of the emotion or not. The Italian painters did but continue, not break, the earlier traditions in lovelier forms, and with a new zest, but there is no break, save advance, in all the progress of true art. What it was with the Greek it was with the earlier Byzantine, and when the Byzantine had become stereotyped from excess of reverence, the Italians did but adapt the old themes to new liberty of thought, and by slow enlargement widened the range of harmonies and multiplied the themes. It remains hardly a question for doubt if nature ever did inspire a true art. Where religious emotion is not its well-spring, art for art's sake is its minor source, for art has always been the same in every essential, from the Archaic Greek to the great Venetians; and, in it all, the law is nature for art's sake, and art is the vehicle of the expression of all those emotions of which the human heart is possessed, by access of eye, ear, or sympathy. So when men turn their backs on the traditions of art, and go to nature to construct new ones, they are like those who should say, "Go to! let us make a new religion," which, when made, is good by just as much as it holds of the vitality of the old one. Art is kept in its traditions and its masters, as the religion in its revelations and its prophets.

In Mason, a charming painter and one of the few true artists the Academy possessed, dead since this book was written, Mr. Colvin has a more gracious subject of eulogy; but when he sees in him the qualities of Jules Breton, one is disposed to doubt his perception of art, and when he uses for him phrases which are more befitting Giorgione, we only say the public will have it so, knowing that the critic is mistaken less in kind than degree.

Mr. Stephens has the ungracious task of dealing with Landseer, of whom by far too much has long ago been said, but he is recompensed by having to tell us about Holman Hunt what we have never had so well told before, and, parenthetically, the history of the Pre-Raphaelite movement. Hunt is a mystical and intellectual painter, not an artistic one—realistic in a painter's rather than a scientific sense, and whether his aims are proper ones for a painter or not is a question not of absolute but comparative and personal import. His possession, however, of the high artistic faculties will hardly be maintained on general principles.

For the rest of the subjects of the essays, Boughton is in no sense an English artist, Cave Thomas almost a German one, while the others, except Woolner, who is almost as much of a sculptor as the age can be expected to produce, are not well enough defined yet to be made the subjects of collective criticism or enthusiastic laudation, except on the policy of making them gods for a day, to be dropped into a deeper oblivion when that day is done. A man overrated in his time must expect that the whirligig of time will bring about the inexorable revenge at no distant to-morrow.

American Pioneers and Patriots. Miles Standish, the Puritan Captain. By John S. C. Abbott. Illustrated. (New York: Dodd & Mead. 1872. 16mo, pp. 372.)—Mr. Abbott's book is simply a popular history of the settlement of Plymouth Colony, compiled from well-known sources and decorated with his characteristic fine writing. Of course we do not expect any new facts in such a work, and should the book obtain a large circulation we may feel sure that its readers will get a fair knowledge of a very interesting part of our history. There is, however, no reason for the title adopted. Miles Standish is not the central figure in the history, and his name is placed on the book probably as a means of availing of the temporary interest taken in the proposed monument at Duxbury. We have already expressed in these pages our opinion of the labored enthusiasm and forced eulogy which were the main features of the celebration last year. So far as Mr. Abbott adopts the same style of description of the probable thoughts, words, and acts of Captain Standish, he disfigures the pages of an otherwise creditable book. We notice, on pp. 35-37, some remarks about the ancestors of Miles Standish which might well have been omitted. No doubt the worthy emigrant thought, as he stated in his will, that his great-grandfather was heir to certain property, but he did not claim Standish Hall nor the representation of the family. As his descendants have never recovered any property, it is worse than useless to repeat and enlarge these stories, and especially to couple them with charges of fraud.

Although the whole book is evidently a compilation, the most whimsical instance is given in chapter xiii.—"The Courtship of Miles Standish." The poem is used as a basis, and very large extracts are given, but the whole is interspersed with the explanations and comments of Mr. Abbott. Wherever in his judgment the poet had failed to infuse the due amount of "agony," the biographer supplies the deficiency. It is Longfellow read by Silas Wegg.

History of New York City, from the Discovery to the Present Day. By William L. Stone. (New York: Virtue & Yerrinton.)—As a reprint of sketches, incidents, and documents, which are in themselves interesting, the volume before us possesses a certain value which we are quick to recognize. But it is not a history as we understand the term, and it is only because Mr. Stone has seen fit to give it to the world as history that we have studied its length and breadth in order to discover some traces of the connection of causes and effects, and with the reasonable expectation of meeting with the natural fruits of industry and research. We are gravely disappointed, and close the book, having obtained from it a knowledge of New York's real history in about the same ratio as a railway traveller gets a notion of a foreign country by stopping at the way stations on his flying trip through it.

The work is divided into three periods. The first covers sixty-five years, in seventy-six pages. It opens with the miraculous descent of Hudson upon Manhattan Island complete in one paragraph. Three pages are then devoted to a sketch of the island, quoted entire from Miss Booth's history. And eighteen of the remaining pages are given to the reproduction of Diedrich Knickerbocker's burlesque of Dutch customs and social manners, which, like the story of the three black crows, has been repeated until it has lost somewhat of its original drollery, and is accepted by many as history. Thus the Dutch era, which we had supposed a wide field for the painstaking historian, is summarily disposed of. We should have been glad to have learned something of the two great Dutch commercial corporations which made such a noise in the world about that time, and to which New York owes its origin. We should have been grateful for a little light thrown upon the infancy of the great city, showing why it was kept so long in swaddling-clothes, and what manner of men ruled its destinies. In short, we should like to have found some materials from which to draw general lessons of moral and political wisdom.

The second period embraces one hundred and nine years, and is served to the reader in one hundred and ninety-four pages. It starts off with seven pages devoted to a ramble about New Amsterdam in 1661. Eleven pages are given to a quotation from the journal of two Labyrinthist travellers, in the Long Island Hist. Coll. (Vol. I.), while one paragraph of less than a page disposes of the Revolution of 1659 and all its attendant consequences, good and evil. Again, we find a copious extract from the journal of an English lady, Miss Knight, and an article occupying four pages, from the New York World of March 17, 1868. And a little further on, some ten pages are devoted to a gossip letter from Madame Riedesel, detailing her personal experiences in Northern New York at the time of the battle of Saratoga, while twenty pages suffice for the whole eight years' continuance of the great American Revolution!

In like superficial manner are treated the important events since that era. The third period covers the ninety years from 1783 to 1873. It con-

tains a sketch of the Federal Procession of 1783, which was published some years ago by the father of Mr. Stone; an extract from the *Journal of Commerce* of 1855, in reference to the Tontine Coffee-house; and seven or more pages of Chief-Justice Daly's discourse before the Century Club on the death of Gulian C. Verplanck, descriptive of the Trinity Church Riot. Reminiscences of the New York fires of 1811, 1835, and 1845, by Hon. G. P. Disosway, cover thirteen pages; a sketch of the city by Francis Wayland, two pages; the reception of Gen. Lafayette in 1824, ten pages; and the Erie Canal Celebration, twenty-three pages. These two last are from the pen of Col. Stone, the father of the author, as are also the accounts of Washington's Reception and Inauguration Ball. Some reminiscences of the city, by Gulian C. Verplanck, fill thirty-six pages; an extract from *Harper's Magazine* for October, 1872, tells us about the New York Post-office in five pages; and a quotation from Miss Booth's history, again, of nine pages, enlightens us in regard to the riot of 1851. The columns of the New York *Herald* contribute fourteen or more pages to this remarkable history; an address of Chief-Justice Daly, entitled "The Origin and History of the New York Fire Department," is laid in entire, covering twenty-five more pages; there are several quotations from 'New York Illustrated,' and the work closes with nineteen pages from Dr. Osgood's address before the New York Historical Society, on the occasion of its Sixty-second Anniversary in November, 1866.

The volume is handsomely illustrated with twenty engravings on steel, and with over eighty wood-engravings, all very good in themselves; but while there is such a wealth of material in existence relating directly to New York, we can hardly see the pertinence in introducing portraits of the nation's Presidents and of foreign generals, and still less pictures of the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill.

The Life and Times of Sixtus the Fifth. By Baron Hübner, late Ambassador of Austria at Paris and at Rome. Translated from the original French by James F. Meline. 12mo, pp. 180. (New York: The Catholic Publication Society. 1873.)—Mr. Meline is best known by the exposure he has made of the alleged misrepresentations in Mr. Froude's account of Mary, Queen of Scots. It is surprising, therefore, that he should allow a misstatement to stand upon his own titlepage. This book is not Baron Hübner's 'Life of Sixtus V.'; it is not even an abridgment of it; it is an independent work of Mr. Meline's, merely based upon Hübner's, and drawing materials from it. The preface, to be sure, sets this all right, but this is no excuse for a titlepage which cannot fail to excite a false expectation. Surely if Mr. Froude, as has been said, does not know the meaning of inverted commas, Mr. Meline is equally ignorant of the meaning of the word *by*. More than this: it is unjust to the distinguished historian to make him responsible for this book in anything but the facts. The work before us differs totally in character from its original. Baron Hübner's work is a history of the first rank, pronounced by a Protestant reviewer to be "calm and unimpassioned, penetrating and logical"; in short, composed in a purely scientific spirit, and indeed upon the basis of the labors of the Protestant Ranke. Mr. Meline's book is a strictly sectarian one. As such we have no fault to find, either with its general spirit or its execution, but we protest against its passing under the name of Hübner.

This book, therefore, belongs to the class known as denominational literature. It is designed to afford good and instructive reading to Roman Catholics; and for this end it is very well designed. It might advantageously have been expanded to double its bulk, but even as it is, it is interesting, and by no means offensive in its denominational spirit. It will convey at least some idea of the character and acts of the man who ranks as probably the greatest pontiff of modern times; a man who was not merely great as a pontiff and as a ruler over Rome, but who exercised a powerful and decidedly salutary influence on the history of his time; the Pope who is, perhaps, more than any other identified with what Mr. Meline calls "the great Catholic reaction of the sixteenth century." It is, however, rather as the man and the head of the church that Mr. Meline's readers will become acquainted with Sixtus V., while Baron Hübner dealt principally with the statesman. And when we consider the stirring events of this short pontificate, which commenced just after the death of William the Silent, and ended shortly before the final triumph of Henry of Navarre—the revolution of the Netherlands, the war of the Henries, the execution of Queen Mary, the Invincible Armada, the assassination of Henry III.—it must be confessed that Mr. Meline has slighted this aspect of his hero's character. And in what he has said, his view is incomplete and misleading by its incompleteness. He tells us that Sixtus personally disliked Philip II., and that he was offended by the arrogance of his ambassador. He does not tell us that his policy was really opposed to the intolerant Catholicism of the Spanish Court. Sixtus V. was an earnest Catholic, as it was right he should be; he

sympathized with Mary against Elizabeth, and with Farnese against the States of the Netherlands; but he did not sympathize with the Duke of Guise and Philip II.—rather with that broad and conciliating temper so pitifully represented by Henry III., and which afterwards triumphed with Henry IV. If it was any one man it was Sixtus V.—although he did not live to see the fruits of his own work—that won over Henry of Navarre to the Roman Church; and this, whatever we may think of the genuineness of the conversion, secured at once a great kingdom to the fold of the church, a measurable toleration for the reformed faith, and religious tranquillity for France for nearly a century.

We do not suppose that this aspect of the place of Sixtus V. in history is that which would be most acceptable to the Jesuit-ridden church of the present day. We have a little doubt that it will be his best claim to the gratitude and admiration of posterity—that he will be remembered a hundred years hence as the wise and able ruler who, while Bishop of Rome and head of one section of Christendom, had nevertheless in his mind a conception of a genuine *Catholicism*; a conception which appears to have vanished from his church at the present day.

The Mountain. From the French] of Michelet. By the translator of 'The Bird,' with fifty-four illustrations from designs by Percival Skelton. (London and New York: T. Nelson & Sons.)—M. Michelet's method of observing nature is so well known that minute criticism of these translations is hardly necessary. We may say, in one word, that M. Michelet is untranslatable when he writes about such subjects as 'The Mountain.' He is a Frenchman of the Frenchmen; his whole style and the color of his mind are French; and when you change the language you change the thing itself. For example, when one reads such sentences as these: "These lakes—these dumb confidants of the glaciers, which achieve through their agency a passage out of the darkness—were regarded by our Celtic forefathers with terror and worship. They seem full of mystery; a savage charm invests them. He who has ever beheld, for ever remembers them. I do not feel greatly surprised at the efforts of a courageous fish to revisit them every year, in the season of love's potent impulses" (p. 60)—one cannot help a feeling of amused contempt for a mind which is capable of producing them, and yet, in French, they would not be so absurd. We learn from the translator's preface that 'The Mountain,' 'The Bird,' 'The Insect,' and 'The Sea' were written "in partnership with Mme. Michelet"; from the author's preface, that 'The Mountain' continues a series of "analogous" books (those just mentioned), the publication of which began in 1856; also that "the public, from that epoch, has felt an entirely new interest in natural history"; that it was the singular fortune of 'The Bird' to bear upward upon its wings both the public and the press; that these three books had the rare success of being the cause of many others. "A new branch of literature has sprung into life since that epoch." "For the first time, men learned the peculiar mystery of the bird—the peculiar mystery of the insect." The reason why the public was so much impressed by these books was that "the only books which have powerfully affected them are those which appeal to the soul." The preface concludes with this apostrophe: "Living spirit of regeneration! True heart-cordial in these days of too general decadence! May this book, while strengthening ourselves, steady others upon the slopes, where, through weakness or melancholy, so many fall! If it need an epigraph, it shall use this word—*Ascend!*"

Old Landmarks and Historic Personages of Boston. By Samuel Adams Drake. Profusely illustrated. (Boston: James R. Osgood & Co.)—This is a valuable book, and we advise any one who is at all interested in American antiquities or history to get it. Boston is one of the few cities in America which are worth studying minutely—one of the few cities which have at once the advantage of being old, and having kept alive some of their individuality with their increasing years. No doubt, too, the time is coming, and is even now at hand, when Boston also must go the way of her predecessors, and become modern; now that the walls of Quebec are being pulled down, there is little hope for the rest. What with fires, and alterations of buildings, and widenings of streets, the old part of Boston has been already a good deal changed, and "Young Boston" is becoming accustomed, as the youth of other parts of the country had already become accustomed, to regard local traditions as simply so many obstructions in the way of improved corner-lots. Still, though Faneuil Hall has been enlarged, and a mansard roof, or to speak more accurately, a box-roof, has been put on top of the Old State House, and the Old South Church is in danger of demolition, and Hanover Street has been widened, and Fort Hill levelled to the ground, and a dozen old streets lately burnt up—nevertheless, Boston is still Boston; Boston traditions are still different from those of New York, Philadelphia, or Baltimore, and they are well worth collecting and preserving.

Mr. Drake has a pleasantly unpedantic way of imparting knowledge, and has certainly spared neither time nor labor in accumulating his materials. The book is not a product of the recent fire, having already gone through the press before the burning began.

Fine Arts.

THE INTERNATIONAL WATER-COLOR EXHIBITION.

THE display at the Academy of Design is scarcely one that water-color art would choose to be judged by, as the American work is all confessedly tentative in its nature, and the English department is obviously weak in representative names, the best British specimens being in fact lent by American owners from their galleries, and exposed among the pictures of our own Society. The English contributions are represented as having come "spontaneously" in answer to a cable message that they would be received, and are from the class of men who always have something nice on hand for the market, the other class, who can readily sell all they make, being hardly represented. We may go to the shops of any of our importers, and see a dozen water-colors better than the best dozen here. But, for our own part, this respectable mediocrity suits us about as well as a grander show would have done; in judging of a national school, and especially of just such a school as English water-color aims to be, we can best gauge it as it shows at its broad level, without too many astonishments and pyrotechnics. The Academy gives us between five and six hundred handsome pages; the South Room is evenly covered with English sheets, to the number of a hundred and thirty, imparting a tone to it entirely different from that of any of the ordinary collections which enter there, and perfectly satisfactory as showing the peculiar decorative effect of cartoon pictures, in their broad spandrels and shallow frames. The result goes to convince us that English water-color must have been created out of influences and impressions of English landscape to which it fits as the lining fits one's hat; wherever the eye turns it rests upon some glimpse that is both cheering and tranquillizing, "telling a tale not too importunate" of meadows and elms and park-oaks, of fields like those that stretch from Stratford to Shottery, of *motifs* which, both in the subject and the vehicle, gratify the taste without demanding rapture. The suddenness and felicity of water-color effects—the ease, almost mechanical, with which a broad wash struck on a coarse paper will secure transparency and atmosphere—are precisely adapted to a Nature which is capricious, showery, dainty, and as it were domestic. The sketchy brightness of aquarelle is the complement of the British climate.

The figure subjects which are present turn out to be from the hands of a very few artists, but they are sufficient in number to show that the school by no means abandons the representation of human expression. In looking at both figures and landscape we are struck by the air of fecundity which British cartoon-art displays; we think of its short date, and the velocity with which it has shot forth, and drawn up its sap, and spread out its foliage, and vignettised a whole country with its prolific and agreeable ornaments. Nothing is plainer, though, than that the figure department of the art, represented by such things as Faed's "Sir Walter Scott and his Friends," Robertson's "Venetian Councillor," and many others, is a totally different sort of study from the landscape department, represented by Skinner Prout's "Cathedral," Arthur Severn's "Algerian Cemetery," Mrs. Murray's "View of Rienzi's House," and other such specimens. To understand this marked bifurcation we need not indeed go as far back as the cartoons of Raphael, which, long owned and admired in England, may have inspired the ambition of making grand paper-pictures. We can find all that we want in the corridors of the Louvre, where hanging near together are a piece by Bonington and a piece by the elder Isabey. Bonington, an English artist of the first merit, educated and adopted by the French, gives, in his view of the Colonne statue at Venice, the best possible prophecy of the English water-color landscape school, as its happiest works define it; his "Colonne Monument" is a study in aquarelle, broad, washy, intense, and bathed in fluidity and light: all that water-color need usefully attempt is explained or indicated there. The Isabey, which represents fashionables of the First Empire lounging through the Louvre, is another sort of art, derived from vellum-painting, fan-paintings and snuff-box painting; it is touched with minute stippling until the labored impression becomes painful; and that is the kind of thing from which English water-color figure-painting evidently dates. Mr. Blackburn's collection gives us only too few specimens of figure-art, but Faed's group of poets shows what it becomes in the hands of an expert, Robertson's "Councillor" shows it in the hands of respectable mediocrity, and there are several ladies present who have been quilting away at the human countenance with the finest pencils borrowed direct from Miss La Creevy, showing adorable and deplorable patience, and, alas! an

abundant ingredient of futility. When we see the labors of such humble, persevering, neat-fingered creatures, we long to ask them who their teachers were, and how they ever came to think it a duty to cover their representations of the human figure with a fine pattern of prickly-heat. And if we could find those teachers, supposing any of them to survive, we should be fain to embolden ourselves, and, grasping the misleading guides with firmness, to say: What has got into you, brave Englishmen, that you exaggerate the stippings from miniatures all over the surface of your large compositions? Nobody does it but you! The Italians are painting lovely figure-subjects, full of gaiety and sunshine, but in no face by Pascenti or Detti or Simonetti will you find other than broad tints, broadly laid on. The French are excelling in their new taste for aquarelle, but Vibert, Castres, Dettaille, and the rest never model a countenance except in the flattest *plans* of color, a tint for each surface, preserving the sharpness of the drawing and the transparency of the hue. Why should a head in water-color, the size of an orange, be covered with a rind like an orange's or a network like a muskmelon's? Is it not evident that this is just the way to destroy the luminousness, that suddenness and flash of tint which is the peculiar glory of cartoon art, and its special reason for existence? And how can any boldness of modelling be preserved by an artist whose attention is expended on making the neat granulation cover the whole flesh with one handsome and regular crust? The English have been going on in their corner at this persevering work for perhaps fifty years, while the live schools in France, Brussels, Italy, and even Spain have demonstrated, whenever they chose to adopt water-color, that the miniature and snuff-box-lid method was no more necessary to paper than to canvas, and that Windsor and Newton's cake-paints could be laid on with touches as square as the touches of Horace Vernet or Meissonier.

The method we speak of does not surprise us in a picture so old as that of Faed, but it astonishes us in work so recent and so intellectual as that of E. K. Johnson ("The Rival Florists"), where the old men are as full of character as old men by Zamacois, while the diaphanous damsel in white, shading the multiplied stippings of her cheek with a muslin hat starched with body-color, is more of an enamel than an aquarelle. The free use, by the bye, of this body-color or *gouache*, even in the pictures showing greatest training, will be an amazement to most of our young men here, who thought they were sitting at the feet of British water-colorists in their posture of resolute denial of all the temptations of white streaks and *blanc d'argent* high-lights. While our American tyros will painfully wash all a round the intended luminous spot, so as to save the glow of the Whatman paper in its purity, their English leaders are scumbling away at their ease, and mending all with a few magisterial touches of body-color, which, as we are taught, may turn black in the course of years. Hardly any of the English exhibitors present are free from a very ready use of *gouache* whenever it will save them trouble, and perhaps none from occasional touches of it—specks of plaster fallen on a composition of stained glass. The American contributors, we think, are much more cautious in thus mixing styles. Of course the pictures which profess to give distemper effects are to be judged by a standard of their own: Mr. Matt Morgan, for instance, who is a scene-painter, shows a "View near Cadiz," with oxen and figures modelled in impasto most skilfully, reminding one of some of the chalky effects of Eastern sunshine lately given out by Pasini; and the village picture of the French artist Plette, plastered in *gouache* until the embossments catch the light like repoussé work, is very well in its way. The real objections to body-color are when Mr. E. K. Johnson paints several dozen roses with it, not because they will thus look rosy, but because it saves trouble, and when Faed anoints the foreheads and noses of his poets with it in particular places, until they shine like knockers new-polished or with the startling aggressiveness of buttons on a just-uniformed page. How far a *scraping* process is allowable for the development of white need not be here discussed; when artistically done it justifies itself, while when mechanically done it is poverty confessed; but we are hardly of those who give water-color such importance as to insist on a rigid purism and unmixed method. White paint is freely used by Dettaille, in his magnificent sketch of a Prussian soldier, on tinted paper, which the hangers of the exhibition have mysteriously put into a corner, while the centres are occupied by various paintings, very handsome and very yellow, in the finest frames yet contributed to American-picture displays. The study by the author of "Nos Vainqueurs," a masterpiece of character, is touched with *gouache* on the flesh and the pipe-clayed trappings; yet in the mode of applying the color, we could hardly wish for a better example of good aquarelle, or a more convincing argument against our friends the stippplers. This calm and honest face, where a limited round of ideas can be as clearly seen as bottom-pebbles or a brook, is carved out in little facets and breadths, like a sculptor's sketch or like a study by Gérôme; the gain in precision and solidity by this quick and

handy method of modelling can be instantaneously seen on comparison with any of the brigand chiefs and gipsy mothers who are showing their porous-looking and pitted faces around it.

Of American pictures there is a truly creditable display and we own we think, that quite as many of our native artists are indicated as prosecuting water-color as we should fancy to be necessary. They are without exception, we believe, practitioners of other methods in addition, the sole employment of water-color being hardly known in this country's practice. Mr. Gifford has some foreign scenes which are truly luminous and pure, such as his view of a *koubba*, or marabout's tomb, near Tangier. Mr. Tiffany has a quantity of oriental sketches, very bold and showy, but evidently the work of an amateur, who is pressing after the secret of light as he is pressing after the mystery of anatomy. His perseverance strikes us as a good sign, and his courage, in the face of some half a dozen French masters in his specialty, the names of whom he knows as well as we do, indicates the true American grit; it must be said, however, that his success in the present exhibition is not any one of his Eastern views, but the quiet and faithful copy of nature in the scene at New London, where the water is seen stealing unexpectedly amongst the meadows of the land, and white sails flash strangely behind the dark scrub-oaks and against the deep sky. The little mountain studies by Richards, showing hill-perspectives drowned in azure and faint green, have a peculiar airy beauty, coupled with the anatomical exactness in which his

landscapes are apt to excel. Mr. Thomas Moran exhibits nothing but studies, but studies in great variety, from dark caprices apparently printed off from an inky sponge, and very suggestive in their way, to the caprices of Yellowstone scenery, which strike the eye as odd and nothing more. Our figure-painters are mostly unrepresented, neither Mr. Johnson, Mr. Homer, nor the portraitists contributing; but Mr. Bush, the author of some excellent pen-drawings for Hawthorne's romances, exhibits fifteen illustrations to the *Scarlet Letter*, which are truly appreciative and suggestive if they do show force rather than subtlety. The artist's effects are different from the poet's effects, and if Mr. Bush seems to confound the high-peaked Puritans with the dwarfs who tempted Rip Van Winkle, he at least gains in some of his contrasts and in some of his Rembrandt-shadows the mystery which is the nearest of what art has to the literary mystery of Hawthorne.

The work of some able foreign designers hung in the corridor, and showing the methods of such admirable draughtsmen as Doré, Fildes, W. Small, J. D. Linton, and DuMaurier, are full of brilliancy and expression, capable of teaching our own designers what refinements are possible on the wood, in expression and texture, and teaching our engravers that imagination and interpretative originality are expected of them, too. Altogether the exhibition, though it ought to have been much more deliberately and exhaustively collected, is fit to give our public much pleasure and our artists much encouragement and some hints.

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THE WEEK IN TRADE AND FINANCE.

FEBRUARY 17, 1873.

THE money market has shown no signs of improvement during the past week, and, indeed, rates upon call loans have been higher than for the previous week, having ruled between 7 per cent. per annum and $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per diem. The average rate of the week was $\frac{3}{4}$ and interest. Balances were loaned out on one or two days, late in the afternoon, as low as 4 and 5 per cent. but, of course, these rates were entirely exceptional. There is a report—and, judging from the weekly bank statement, a well-founded one—that a large amount of legal tenders has been “locked up” by speculators for the purpose of affecting the stock market. It is also reported that the leading “bull” operators in gold contemplate withdrawing \$5,000,000 from the market in order to bring about what is known in Wall Street as a “squeeze” in cash gold, i.e., compelling borrowers to pay exorbitant rates for its use. The situation of affairs in the money market is far from satisfactory, the poverty of the bank reserve placing it within the power of a few speculators to create a still more unsatisfactory one. The present low condition of the bank reserve is due partly to the large gold shipments of last year to pay for excessive importations, but principally to the withdrawal of \$20,000,000 3 per cent. certificates since January 1, 1872, which the National Banks were allowed to count for three-fifths of their face in the reserve; the cancellation of that amount is, therefore, equal to the contraction of \$12,000,000 legal tenders. Besides this, the new National Banks established since that date have issued notes which require a reserve to be held against them, so that the effect of the law for their establishment has been to increase liabilities, at the same time diminishing the reserve. The Bank of England reports a decrease of £355,000 in bullion, and the Bank of France a decrease of 250,000 francs. The Bank of England rate of discount remains at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., while money in the open market is quoted at 3 to $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Should no trouble arise from the unsettled condition of affairs in Spain, it is not improbable that in view of the existing ease in the European money markets, a considerable amount of foreign capital will be directed towards this country. We hear of negotiations pending in this city for the loan of a large amount of sterling to leading operators in Wall Street.

The sale of commercial paper is naturally interfered with by the activity of money upon call, and holders are disposed to wait, until the flurry has passed, in preference to effecting sales at rates which they would now be compelled to accept. Prime names are quoted 8 to 9 per cent.

The Bank Statement for the week ending February 15 is very unfavorable, showing a loss of \$4,903,800 in the total reserve, and a decrease of only \$5,666,600 in the total liabilities. The reserve is now \$1,299,000 below the 25 per cent. required by law.

The following are the statements for the two weeks ending February 8 and February 15:

| | Feb. 8. | Feb. 15. | Differences. |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Loans..... | \$231,919,000 | \$291,530,700 | Dec. \$2,414,300 |
| Specie..... | 19,035,400 | 16,461,000 | Dec. 2,574,400 |
| Circulation..... | 27,520,600 | 27,539,800 | Inc. 19,200 |
| Deposits..... | 220,299,200 | 214,613,400 | Dec. 5,685,800 |
| Legal tenders..... | 45,107,700 | 42,778,300 | Dec. 2,329,400 |

The following shows the relation between the total reserve and the total liabilities:

| | Feb. 8. | Feb. 15. | Differences. |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Specie..... | \$19,035,400 | \$16,461,000 | Dec. \$2,574,400 |
| Legal tenders..... | 45,107,700 | 42,778,300 | Dec. 2,329,400 |
| Total reserve..... | \$34,143,100 | \$39,239,300 | Dec. \$4,903,800 |
| Circulation..... | 27,520,600 | 27,539,800 | Inc. 19,200 |
| Deposits..... | 220,299,200 | 214,613,400 | Dec. 5,685,800 |
| Total liabilities..... | \$247,819,800 | \$242,153,300 | Dec. \$5,666,600 |
| 25 per cent. reserve..... | 61,954,950 | 60,538,300 | |
| Excess over legal reserve..... | 2,188,150 | | |
| Deficiency in legal reserve..... | | \$1,299,000 | Dec. \$3,477,150 |

The speculation in stocks has been interfered with by the activity in money, and small and weak holders have been forced into selling, which has imparted a heavy feeling to the market; this was especially the case after the publication of the bank statement on Saturday. Lake Shore was exceptionally strong all the week, with the report current that an effort was being made by parties outside of the present direction to carry the next election by purchasing a controlling interest in the stock. Union Pacific has been weak upon the expectation that the Government would take some action in

regard to the money due by the Company to the former on account of interest paid upon the subsidy bonds. We hear that there have lately been some short sales made for account of Washington parties, which may indicate that “something is up” in regard to the relations between the Government and the Company.

The price of Delaware, Lackawanna and Western has advanced to 103; this improvement is due to the legalization by the New Jersey Legislature of the terms of the agreement made between that Company and the Central Railroad Company of New Jersey relative to the consolidation of the earnings of the two roads. How long such an arrangement can be made to hold between two large corporations like these is a question, and we are inclined to think that the present forced settlement of the differences between them is but temporary.

Mr. Stockwell's Atlantic and Pacific Preferred fell back on Tuesday, in the easiest manner possible, from $36\frac{1}{2}$ to $30\frac{1}{2}$, since which time the dealings in it have been on a very moderate scale. It turns out that the sale of Western Union Telegraph Stock belonging to the company was made for the purpose of providing means for the purchase of a controlling interest in the Cuban telegraph line. The action of the President in disposing of the stock was approved at a subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors by an almost unanimous vote. The great element of weakness to the stock market just now is the absence of any considerable short interest. The “bears,” having a vivid recollection of their experience in the Northwestern “corner,” seem timid about selling short; the “bulls” have found but a limited market for their stocks when they have advanced prices, and outside operators are acting in the most prudent manner possible, by leaving the market to the professional speculators of the street. At prevailing prices there is no incentive for the outside public to buy, and, all things considered, we are inclined to believe that the market will fall considerably before any well-established rise can take place.

The following shows the highest and lowest sales of some of the leading stocks at the Exchange during the week ending February 15:

| | Monday. | Tuesday. | Wed'n'day. | Thursday. | Friday. | Saturday. |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| N. Y. C. & H. R..... | 104 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 105 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 193 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 104 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 192 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 104 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Erie..... | 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 66 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 66 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 63 | 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Lake Shore..... | 95 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 97 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 94 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Rock Island..... | 113 | 113 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 112 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 113 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 111 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 112 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Ohio & Miss..... | 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 48 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 47 |
| Boston H. & E..... | 9 | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 9 | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| N. J. Central..... | 105 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 105 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 105 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 105 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 105 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 104 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Del., L. & W..... | 101 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 101 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 101 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 101 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 101 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 102 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Union Pacific..... | 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 35 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Col. C. & I. C..... | 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Western Union..... | 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 91 | 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 88 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 88 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Pacific Mail..... | 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 74 | 75 | 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 75 |

The cash subscriptions to the new 5 per cent. bonds are stated by the syndicate to have amounted to over \$100,000,000. That they amounted to no more is a matter of regret, and we may say of surprise, to the public: It by no means follows, however, that the bonds will not be taken before the option of the syndicate expires, for the members of it are amply able to take what remains, and they would probably do so should outside subscriptions not absorb the loan, in preference to having it published to the world that they had failed in their negotiations. The market for Government bonds has been rather dull in consequence of the unsatisfactory and conflicting information received relative to the negotiations of the 5 per cents. Prices have slightly fallen off, and at the Treasury bond purchase on Wednesday the entire amount of 5-20s advertised for was purchased at and under par in gold.

There has been rather more business doing in Southern State bonds, but no important changes have taken place. Tennessees are lower in consequence of a recent decision that the new issues of bonds will probably be made receivable in payment for taxes and debts due the State, thus reducing the cash payments. The matter will be definitely settled by the decision of a higher court to which it has been taken.

The railroad bond market has been active, with a good demand from investors for the better class of bonds dealt in at the Exchange. New loans are reported to be in better demand by the agents engaged in their negotiation.

The gold market continues stormy, being still manipulated by a clique which is said to hold twenty millions. On Saturday the price reached $114\frac{1}{2}$. The imports of the last week are the largest this year, amounting to \$11,304,000, and are said to be “about the third largest in the history of our foreign trade.” The shipment of specie for the week was \$759,302, making the total since January 1, 1873, \$9,804,906, against \$1,777,183 for the same period in 1872, \$5,481,229 in 1871, \$4,250,863 in 1870, \$5,252,395 in 1869, and \$10,686,491 in 1868.

